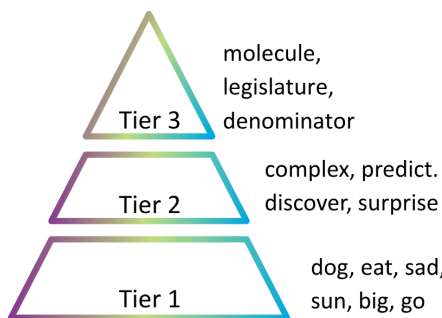




Vocabulary Is Complex

It helps to understand what tier, or category, words fall into.

Dr. Isabel Beck (2013) and her colleagues describe three tiers of vocabulary. What do you notice about the words in each tier below?



1

Tier 1 and AAC Core

Tier 1 words include simple, everyday words that are learned through daily conversation.

AAC core words are also Tier 1 words. Not all Tier 1 words are AAC core words. Nouns are not considered AAC core words.

Tier 1 Words

sun, cat, happy, eat, phone, go, run, baby,

These high-frequency words are learned through conversation and lived experiences.

AAC Core Words

go, help, want, more, play, come, up, what

This includes 400-500 versatile words used across topics, settings, and activities.

2

Teaching Tier 2 + 3 Words

These are complicated words that are learned through direct instruction; they need to be taught.

They do not need to be programmed into an AAC system for a student to learn them. Describe complicated words with Tier 1 words and core vocabulary in the AAC system.

The recipe said to whip it. That means to MIX FAST.



3

Identify Key Vocabulary

Decide which Tier 2 and 3 words are important for a lesson.

Explain the concepts using Tier 1 and core words in the AAC system. Then ask the AAC learner to share what they know about the word using the vocabulary in their AAC System. This is called Descriptive Teaching.

[Select this link or use the QR code to watch a short video to learn more.](#)



4

