



What Your Consultant Can Do for You

Helping you find the most appropriate AAC solution is of the utmost importance to us here at PRC-Salttillo! Here are some of the many ways we can assist you:

- On-site device consultations
- Lifetime device support
- Assistance with the funding process
- Obtaining a trial device
- Implementation support for parents & professionals
- Device setup and training

Your PRC-Salttillo Consultants are Here to Help!



Supporting Communication.
Creating Connections.

prc-salttillo.com



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What Will I Find in the 2022 Calendar?

Discover the world of science through books, activities, and a lab book guiding your journey. Science allows us to learn about our world through exploration. We can make predictions, ask questions, and review results.

Let's Break Down the steps of the scientific method!

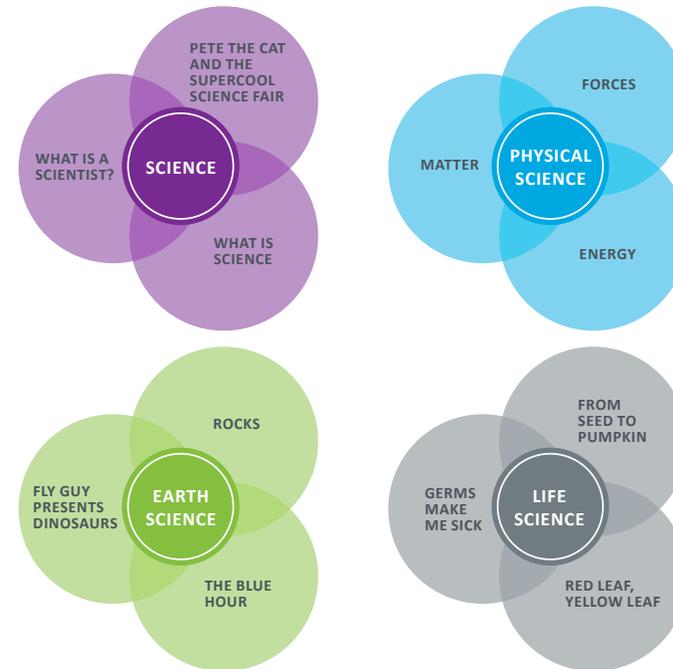
- **State the problem:** Understand and clearly state what your experiment will entail.
- **Develop a Hypothesis:** Form a possible solution or guess what you think will occur after and/or during your experiment
- **Set up an experiment:** Gather the materials you need, perform your experiment, and collect data from it.
- **Analyze data in the experiment:** Review your data; what does it say about the problem you are trying to solve?
- **State a conclusion:** After analyzing your data, what conclusions can you make about the problem? Also, you may want to look at if your hypothesis was correct or not.

Throughout the year, we will explore science terms and three branches of science: physical, earth, and life science.

Download your "Scientist Lab Book" to chart your journey to becoming a scientist! In your very own lab book, you'll find:

- Science terminology to know
- Guides to follow the scientific method
- Sequence cards
- Additional experiments for added fun

Get your lab book!



Mason & Mikey Learn about Science!

Follow along with Mason and Mikey this year as they make their way through the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, Ohio! It was a day filled with fun as they each used their NovaChat 8 to ask questions and talk about the exciting science and space exhibits.

A special thanks to the Great Lakes Science Center for welcoming us to learn, explore, and experiment with science!



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TAAP Your Way through Science!

Each month, suggested core words are color-coded and follow the TAAP strategy!

You can **TAAP** your way through any activity or situation with your AAC learner. Using the TAAP strategy allows you to follow the lead of the AAC learner, make connections, and encourage communication. Plus, it allows you to communicate for more than just requesting and getting wants and needs met!

What exactly does TAAP stand for?

T

Talk about it. Talk about what you see on the page or what you just read. We want you to comment, state an opinion, share and show objects, or whatever else comes to your mind!

A

Ask a question. Ask the AAC learner an open-ended question to encourage participation.

A

Acknowledge via response. Acknowledge and respond to the AAC learner. We want them to know they have been heard and are part of the conversation. You may need to put what they say in context.

P

Propel the conversation and/or Predict. Keep the conversation going by making another natural comment, maintaining the topic, or make a prediction about what will happen next. Predicting is a great way to model your thoughts and ideas.

Learn more about TAAP and how to use it in all activities.



You can model words, phrases, or sentences when TAAPing!

Use the **TAAP** strategy and the provided word tips so you can model while reading each month's book. The suggested words for each book are color-coded and follow the **TAAP** strategy. Incorporate other words that make sense to you and the AAC learner in the moment. Keep the interaction natural and keep modeling!

In the table below are some more suggested words and phrases you can use:

Talk About It	Ask Questions	Acknowledge via Response	Propel the Conversation and/or Predict
OMG	What do you think?	Yes	Let's see if
Uh-oh	What's going to happen?	No	What's next
Oh my	What's next?	I agree	I think
No way	Why?	I think so too	Maybe it will
Wow	Why did that happen?	Let's see	I (or you) will
Yikes	Why do you think?	I don't know	I don't think so
Cool	How many?	Let's find out	Could be
Excellent	How does it feel?	I don't think so	What if...
Great	Did you know that?	So	I bet
Funny	Then what happened?	Very	Wish
Fun		Maybe	Believe
Yikes		Could be	
Awesome		No way	
Amazing		Probably	
Scary			
Cute			
So			
Very			

WordPower™: Supports for Success

How much do you know about WordPower?

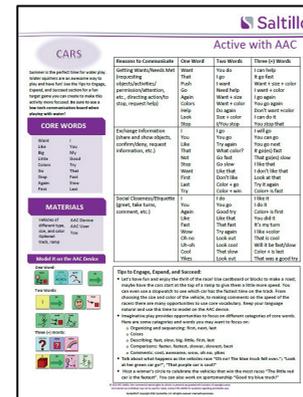
Check out ChatCorner at saltillo.com for all kinds of WordPower supports!

WordPower takes advantage of the fact that almost 50% of what we say on a daily basis consists of only 100 words!

We all need support when it comes to getting started with AAC. There are many supports to help you get started with WordPower.

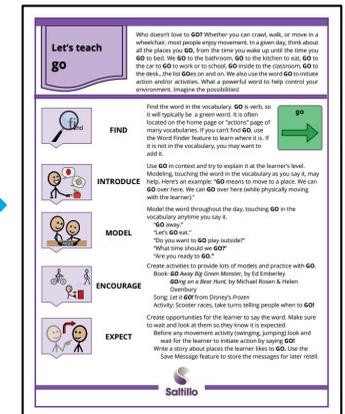
Designed by Nancy Inman, M.A.T., CCC-SLP, with a variety of users in mind, WordPower provides a wide range of configurations... from 20 to 140 buttons per page! Regardless of which version you pick, WordPower includes the same structure and features across vocabulary files.

WordPower vocabularies are made up of single words, phrases, and the alphabet. We need access to all these forms to be able to communicate anything we want to say. All WordPower files are predictive and generate the next logical word in a sentence. This helps to reduce the number of button pushes it takes to make a grammatical sentence. All WordPower files also use color coding, spelling, and alphabetization to organize the language, making it easier for us to find words.



Download **Active with AAC** for ideas on what to do and say while engaged in classic, everyday activities.

Download **Let's Teach Core** for suggestions on how to teach and model specific words.



Download **lite-tech boards** so you have multiple options for modeling and communicating in all settings!



Download the **WordPower Manual** to learn more!

Watch **WordPower Wednesday** videos for quick tips!



Download **ChatEditor™** to a PC. This allows you to learn WordPower on your own, find words, and create materials!

Download ChatEditor at saltillo.com/products#chat-editor. Other downloads available at saltillo.com/chatcorner.



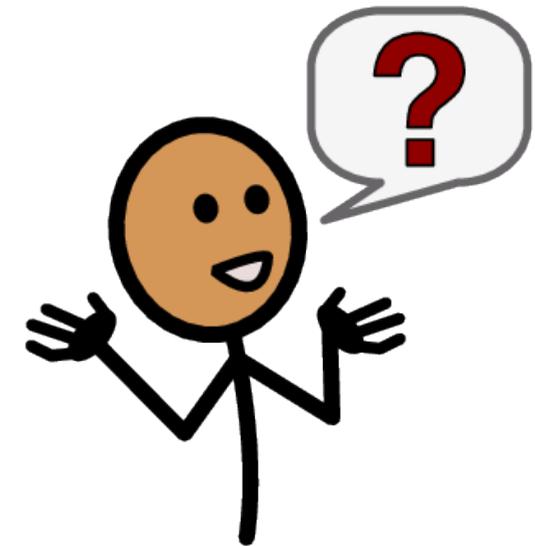


CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

Do you realize how many questions we ask every day?

We ask questions throughout the day to get information; learn about our environment, people, and events; and engage with the world around us. Asking questions is a crucial skill to possess!

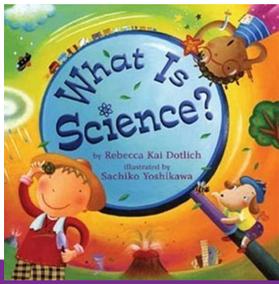
People who use AAC need to be able to ask questions, too! Teaching users of AAC to ask what, where, when, why, and how questions is important for them to be able to learn and communicate in their world.



As we go through the year and the science experiments, some great questions to practice are:

- What will happen next?
- Why? Why did that happen?
- What do you think?
- And more!





**What is Science? By Rebecca Kai Dotlich
Illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa**

Are you curious about science? "What is Science?" explores stars, planets, rocks, hurricanes and much more. Science includes asking questions and exploring answers. Introduce learners to science through pictures and simple wording.

look, that, what, is, I don't know, let's

SCIENCE

JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

DECEMBER 2021		FEBRUARY 2022																		
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22														
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day																			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29														
30	31																			

New Year's Day

Let's Make Snow!

It's January and many parts of the country have snow on the ground, but it doesn't have to be cold where you live to play with snow!

What do you need?

- Bowl
- Spoon
- Baking soda
- Cold water
- Vinegar



Directions:

1. Pour baking soda in bowl.
2. Slowly add a bit of cold water.
3. Mix with spoon or hands.
4. Continue adding water until desired consistency.

Ideas for play:

- Mold into snowballs.
- Make a snowman with the snowballs – add decorations for eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Spray or pour vinegar on snow for fizzing and melting effects.



Don't forget to download your Scientist Lab Book!



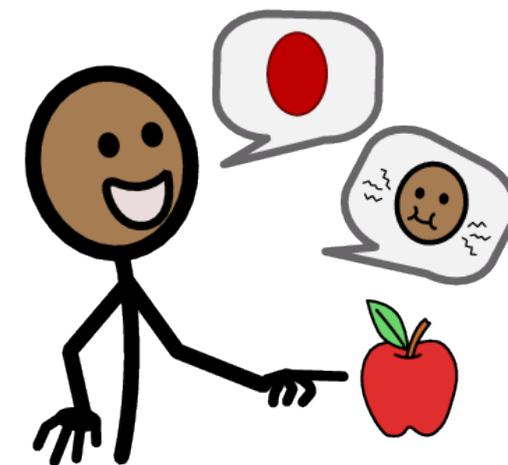


GET DESCRIPTIVE!

What do you do when you can't remember the word for a thing or a person? You describe it!

People understand what you are talking about, they say the word, and the conversation continues. Being able to describe and talk about objects and things in the environment is an important skill for AAC learners, too! They may not have the word programmed into their AAC device, but if they can talk about something, they can still communicate.

Teach AAC learners to describe objects in multiple ways. We can talk about how things look using words that describe the color, shape, size, etc. We can also describe something by how it is used or the category to which the word belongs. Not every word needs to be programmed into the AAC device when we communicate using core vocabulary and descriptive language.



In **WordPower™**, you can use the DESCRIBE page, GROUPS page, EXTRA WORDS page, and more to use descriptive language.





What is a Scientist? by Barbara Lehn
Photographs by Carol Krauss

What does a scientist do? Explore this story to learn about activities involved in the scientific process, like asking questions, paying attention to details, making predictions, and much more. You can be a scientist, too!

awesome, why, did, maybe, I, wonder

SCIENCE

Make it Melt!

As we move into February, let's explore ice! This month, explore what causes ice to melt and the different factors that affect the process.

What do you need?

- Freezer trays
- Cups
- Larger tray for experiment (to catch melting water)
- Food coloring (or other dye)
- Salt
- Paintbrushes, cotton swabs, or something similar

Directions:

1. Fill freezer trays with water and freeze.
2. Remove blocks of ice from freezer and place in larger tray.
3. Fill cups with warm water and add food coloring (or other dye). Use paintbrushes, cotton swabs, and other devices to paint the ice block.
4. Finally, pour salt on the ice block and observe the changes.

Ideas for play:

- Pour salt in one area or all over the block; use a little salt in one place and a lot in another spot. What happened?
- Make your blocks of ice different thicknesses and see how long it takes for changes to occur.



FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Chinese New Year	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 President's Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	JANUARY 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		MARCH 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

Don't forget to download your Scientist Lab Book!

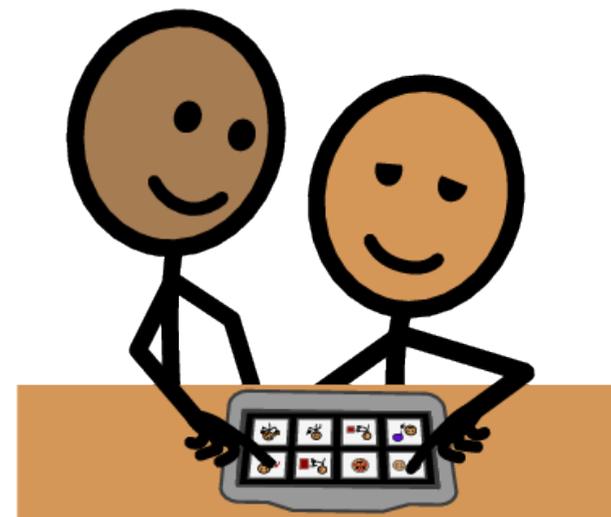




BE A GOOD MODELER (OF LANGUAGE)

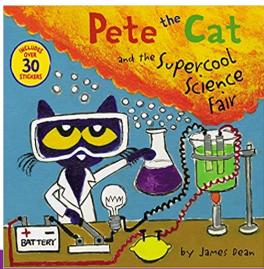
How do we learn a language? We learn language by immersing ourselves in it!

We hear it all around us every day, and we learn to understand and use the words. People who use AAC also need to be exposed to their language. That means we have to use the language (model it!) and give them opportunities to learn their language. When we talk aloud, we can highlight the words and buttons on the AAC device that match what we are saying.



There are many theories about how much to model and how many words to model. Work with the team to decide the approach you will take to modeling. It's important to make it meaningful and sustainable, but get started as soon as possible! Your AAC learner is counting on you to model language.

Start small. Dream BIG. Act now!



Pete the Cat and the Supercool Science Fair by James Dean

Science fairs are cool! Pete the Cat and his friends participate in their school's science fair. They are excited to build the coolest volcano but have a few mishaps along the way. Will they win first place?

uh-oh, what, will, next, think, I don't know

SCIENCE

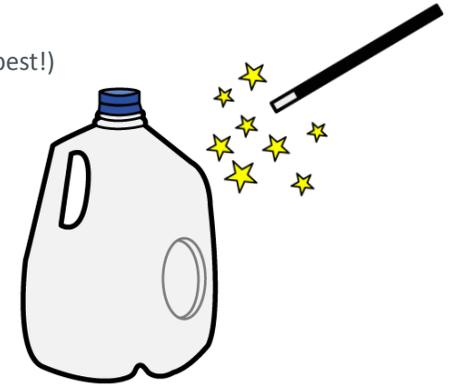
MARCH 2022

Magnificent Magical Milk!

Science experiments give us an opportunity to learn about our world, but they are also really cool! Try making magic milk this month to see how cool science can be!

What do you need?

- Milk (whole or 2% milk work best!)
- Shallow dish/plate
- Liquid food coloring
- Cotton swab
- Dish soap



Directions:

1. Place your dish/plate on a flat surface. Pour your milk into the dish/plate.
2. Put your food coloring in the milk. Place drops near the center of the plate; use as much food coloring as you like.
3. Take one cotton swab and put one drop of soap on the end of the swab.
4. Place the cotton swab with soap on it in the plate. Observe the reaction!

Ideas for play:

- Pick your cotton swab up and put it in different places on the plate.
- What happens if you put food coloring in different areas of the plate? Does the same reaction occur?



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 2022		1	2	3	4	5
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Daylight Saving Time Begins				St. Patrick's Day		Holi
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Spring Equinox						
27	28	29	30	31	APRIL 2022	
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Don't forget to download your Scientist Lab Book!

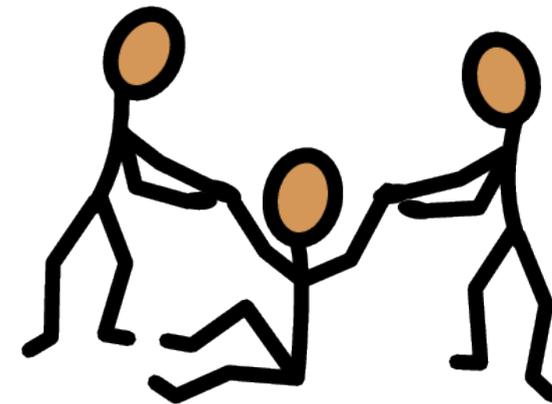




LEARN SUPPORT & SCAFFOLD

**What can you do to help AAC learners communicate and grow?
You can scaffold!**

Scaffolding means adjusting the task or the level of difficulty so the AAC learner can successfully participate. Look at the individual's skills and build on what they know. For example, you might ask a question and wait for an answer. If you don't get a response, try repeating the question and give choices of possible answers. There are many ways to scaffold depending on what you are trying to help the individual learn and communicate.



Individuals respond differently to various types of scaffolds based on the skills they have already developed. Some types of scaffolds you might use are:

- Non-verbal and gestural prompts (like pointing)
- Asking questions (open-ended, closed, or yes/no)
- Giving directions
- Cloze procedures
- Binary choices
- Expansions

Use some, one, or all of these to help your AAC learner. Everyone should work together to identify what scaffolds will be used to support the individual.



PROVIDING MORE SUPPORT

What other techniques and strategies may be helpful to an AAC learner?

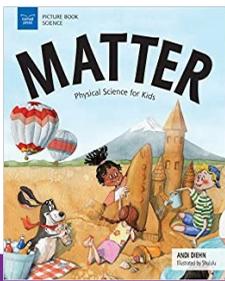
In addition to scaffolding, providing gestural, verbal, or visual prompts or cues may help the AAC learner make connections and learn. Pointing at an object or picture is an example of a gestural prompt. Types of verbal prompts can include things like giving a direction, asking a question, or providing a clue. Finally, using symbols, pictures, or highlighting are examples of visual prompts.



When prompting, aim to give the least amount of prompts possible to support communication. Research tells us that giving too many prompts can lead to individuals relying on these prompts to communicate. So, always prompt with a least to most strategy in mind and fade the prompts as quickly as you can.



Learn about the
Prompt Hierarchy



MATTER by Andi Diehn
Illustrated by Shululu

What is matter? It is part of the physical science branch. Have you ever wondered about the things you touch? What are they made of? Matter, of course! Explore the physical science of matter found in our world!

amazing, wow, how, all, things, could

MAY 2022

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Matter is Everywhere!

Almost everything in the world is made of matter, even if we can't see it! Conduct this experiment with a balloon and bottle of soda to show that even the air has matter!

What do you need?

- Balloon(s)
- Bottle(s) of soda

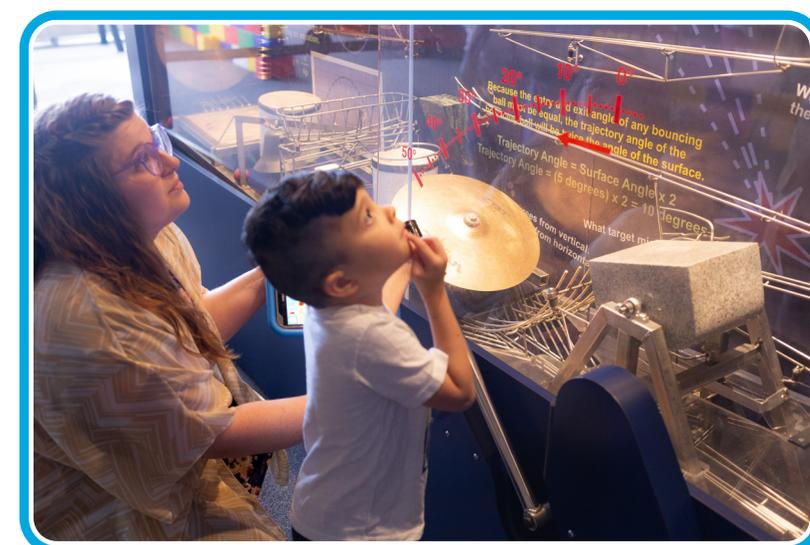
Directions:

1. Place bottle of soda on flat surface and open the bottle.
2. Stretch the balloon over the top of the soda bottle. Observe what happens!



Ideas for play:

- What happens if you shake the bottle a little?
- Use different size bottles of soda (10 oz, 16 oz, 2 liter). Does it take longer to blow up the balloon?
- Use a stopwatch to time how long the process takes.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Mother's Day						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30	31	APRIL 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		JUNE 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	
	Memorial Day					

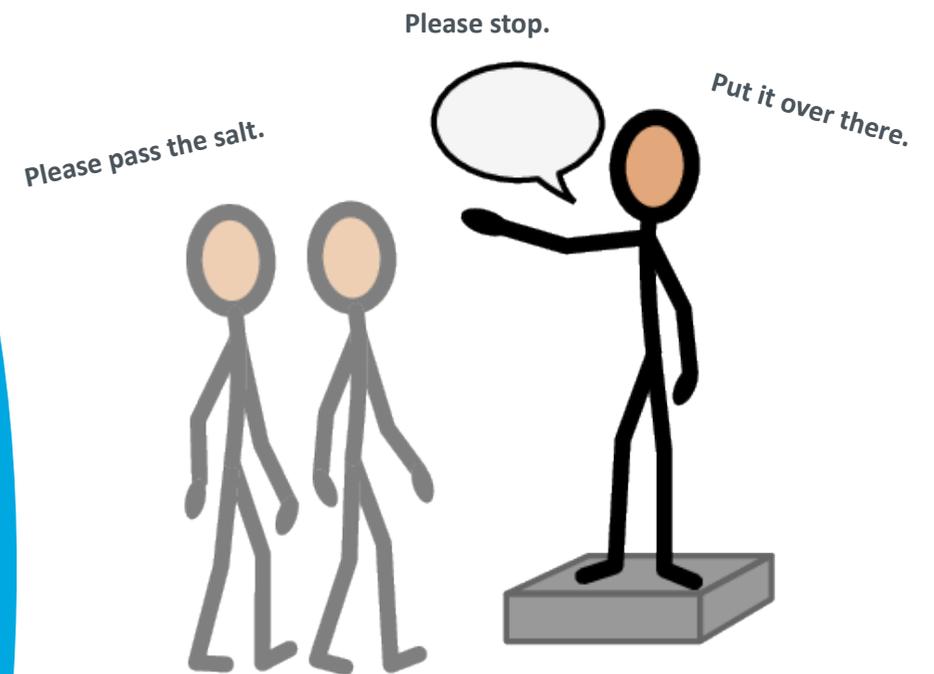
Don't forget to download your Scientist Lab Book!



READY. SET. ACTION!

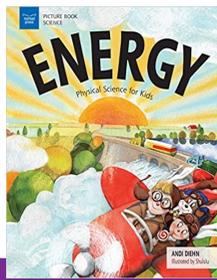
How often do you direct the actions of others?

There are many times throughout the day when we direct the actions of others to get our needs met. We ask others to stop being so loud. We ask others to hand us objects. We direct others' actions to protect them and keep them safe! We may even answer questions by directing actions. There are many other reasons that we may direct the actions of others throughout the day!



Directing the actions of others is an important way we communicate. Let's teach users of AAC how to direct the actions of others in a socially acceptable manner. Often, once we learn we can direct others with our words, we want to talk more and engage in our environments.





ENERGY by Andi Diehn
Illustrated by Shululu

What is energy? It is part of the physical science branch. Do you have energy? If something is moving, it has energy! Explore the science of energy all around us!

incredible, interesting, do, you, need, maybe

JUNE 2022

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Energy is All Around!

Energy is all around us in many different forms! Explore the laws of motion and energy with this experiment using marbles.

What do you need?

- Ruler (with groove) or paper towel tube
- Marbles (at least 3-4)
- Block or tool (to use as plunger)



Directions:

1. Place ruler on a flat surface. If using a paper towel tube, cut the tube in half and place one half on a flat surface.
2. Place two or three marbles in a row in the middle of the ruler/tube.
3. Place one marble at the end of the ruler or tube.
4. Flick, or use the plunger to push, the marble on the end into the marbles in the middle. Observe the transfer of energy.

Ideas for play:

- Use different size marbles to see if any changes occur. Does a bigger marble make smaller marbles move more?
- Change how hard or fast you flick the marble and observe any differences.



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

MAY 2022
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Father's Day

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JULY 2022
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31



Don't forget to download your Scientist Lab Book!



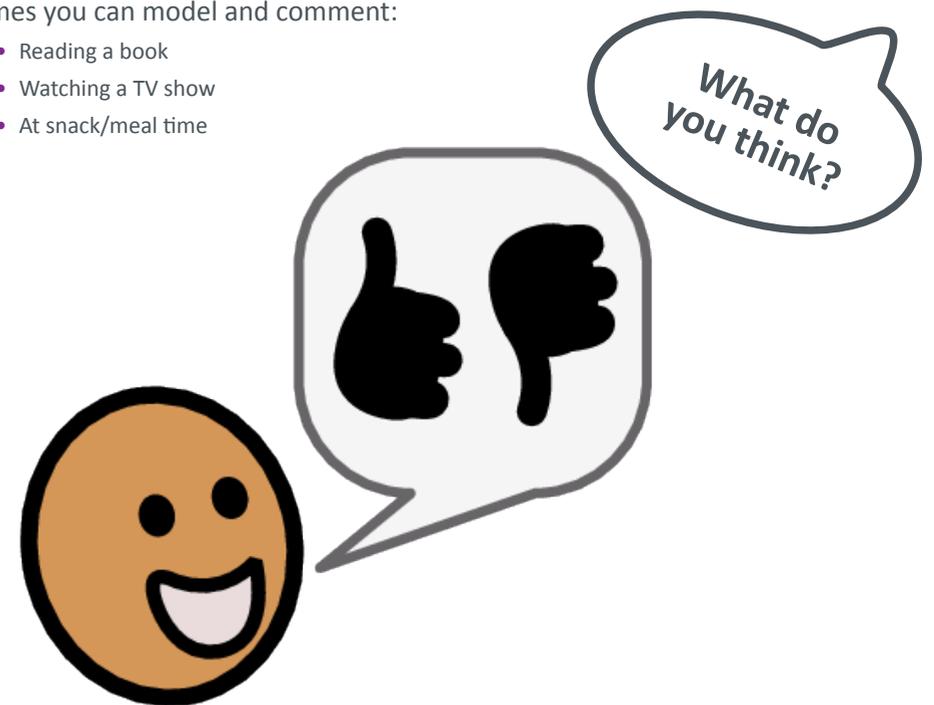
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Awesome! Cool! Yuck! No way! Eww!

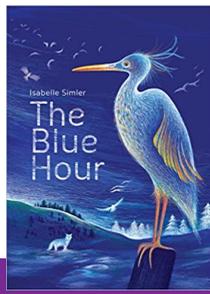
Commenting is something we do all day, every day in many different ways. We can comment on what we think of an event, something we see happen, or whether or not we like something we eat.

Commenting is an important language skill to learn to be able to interact with our environment and build relationships with others. Comment and model that language throughout the day for your AAC learner. Here are some ideas and times you can model and comment:

- Reading a book
- Watching a TV show
- At snack/meal time



Add commenting words that can be personalized to the user of AAC. There may be words, phrases, or sayings that are important to the family and friends of individuals who use AAC. Be sure to add these words, phrases, and sayings to the SOCIAL pages of the AAC learner's vocabulary!



The Blue Hour by Isabelle Simler

The Blue Hour explores everything in nature from the ground to the sky to the seas. This beautiful story displays the time of day as the sun rises and falls and the Earth rotates. This branch of Earth science includes all parts of Earth and its beauty.

really, beautiful, how, I, see, will

EARTH
SCIENCE

JULY 2022

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

JUNE 2022

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AUGUST 2022

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FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2

3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Don't forget to download your Scientist Lab Book!



Explore the Ocean!

The ocean and sea are full of surprises, and there's so much to learn. Explore the different layers of the ocean with this simple and fun experiment!

What do you need?

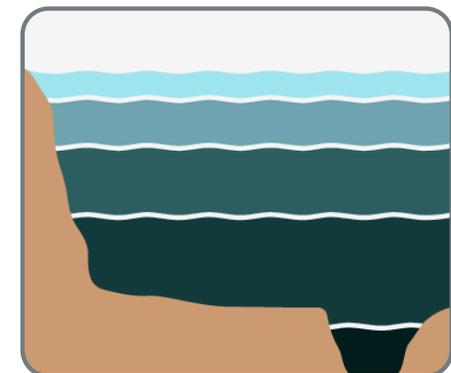
- Water
- ½ c Sand
- 1 c Salt
- Food coloring (blue & green)
- Ice tray (cubes or other shapes)
- Measuring cups (for 1 c and ½ c)
- Vase/pitcher

Directions:

1. Measure ½ cup of water. Next, add a few drops of green food coloring and pour the green water into your ice cube tray. Place the tray in the freezer and freeze.
2. Measure ½ cup of sand and pour into the bottom of your vase/pitcher.
3. Boil 6 cups of water on the stove. Add one cup of salt to the water and stir until dissolved. Finally, add your blue food coloring and let the water cool.
4. Once the blue water has cooled to room temperature, you can pour it into your vase.
5. Last, take your ice cubes out of the freezer and add to the water. Observe what happens!

Ideas for play:

- As your ice melts, what happens to the water?
- Add other liquids, like oil, to the water.
- Add objects to the water. Do they float? Do they sink?



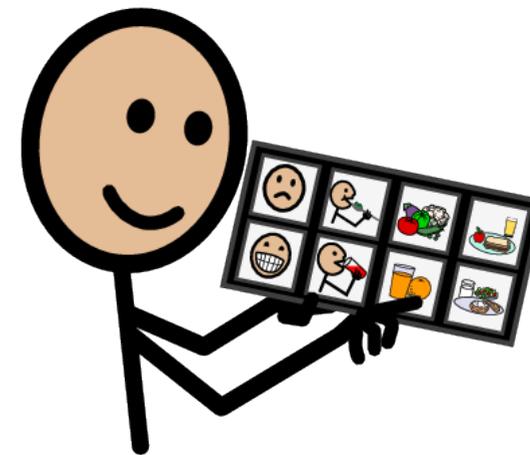


COMMUNICATE ALL THE TIME!

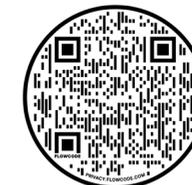
**How will you communicate if the battery to your AAC device dies?
What if you are in the pool?**

There are times when a lite-tech system needs to be used in place of a high-tech, speech-generating device. It is important to have a backup or lite-tech system ready to go so that users of AAC can communicate in all environments. Sometimes a battery may die or not be fully charged. Use a lite-tech system!

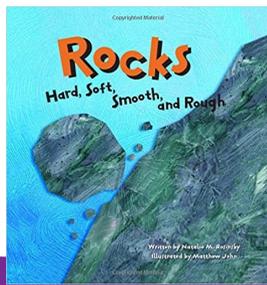
You may also need to use a backup system in situations that are not device friendly. Swimming in the pool...jumping on the trampoline...these activities aren't great to have your AAC device with you, but you will still have plenty to say. You can still talk in these situations with a backup lite-tech system.



Make sure you have a lite-tech backup system and plan! Download lite-tech boards from salttillo.com or use **ChatEditor™** to print pages and add words to your lite-tech systems.



Download your very own
lite-tech boards!



**Rocks by Natalie M. Rosinsky
Illustrated by Matthew John**

Rocks come in all shapes, textures, and sizes. What rocks do you see around your school or home? Did you know some rocks might have a fossil? This story introduces you to geology, a part of the Earth science branch.

I, didn't, know, did, you, really, see

**EARTH
SCIENCE**

Make Your Own Geodes!

Rocks can take millions of years to form! Speed up the process this month and make your own geodes with this fun experiment. You just need a few ingredients from around the house!

What do you need?

- Borax – make sure to monitor while using Borax (it can be toxic if inhaled or ingested in large quantities)
- Soap
- Water
- Eggshells or flat rocks (eggshells work best)
- Food coloring
- Clear plastic container

Directions:

1. Heat water to just before boiling. Pour ½ c of hot water into each clear plastic container. Use different containers to create different color geodes.
2. Add ½ cup Borax to water and stir until dissolved. Next, add a few drops of food coloring to Borax and water mixture to create your desired colors.
3. Place the eggshells (or rocks) into the liquid. Wait for the water to evaporate.
*It should take about 5-7 days. Observe the changes each day!

Ideas for play:

- Create your own unique colors by mixing food coloring together.
- Create smaller, thinner geodes by using less Borax.
- Draw your geode from different angles.



AUGUST 2022

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Don't forget to download your Scientist Lab Book!





EVERYONE LOVES A GOOD VISUAL!

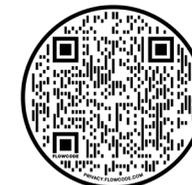
Do you write yourself Post-Its or keep alarms and notes on your phone?

You may not realize it, but we all use visual supports throughout our daily lives! The Post-It note on your desk, the little drawings in a set of instructions, and that calendar on the wall – are all visual supports that help us navigate every day. Each visual support gives us different information.

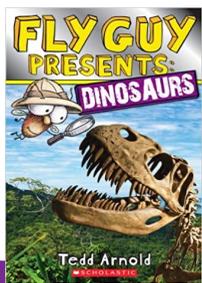
We can use visual supports to help users of AAC, too! You can put a visual support of a single word or phrase in many areas of your home to remind yourself to model. AAC users can benefit from visual supports that show them the word pathway (or the buttons they need to push) to say a word. Visual supports can look different and do different things to help. Take advantage of using visual supports with your AAC user!



Use **ChatEditor™** to help create visual supports for you and the person in your life who uses AAC!



Download
ChatEditor



Fly Guy Presents: Dinosaurs by Tedd Arnold

Fly Guy and Buzz are taking another adventure on a field trip to learn about dinosaurs. Learn about when dinosaurs lived, what they ate, and how they are related to animals we see today. What will you see as Fly Guy visits the natural history museum?

so, scary, big, which, like, wish

SEPTEMBER 2022

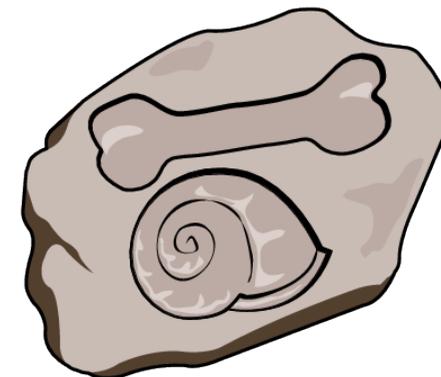
EARTH SCIENCE

Make Your Own Fossils!

You might never find a dinosaur fossil in real life, but you can create your own fossils with this fun project! What fossils will you create?

What do you need?

- 1 c of used coffee grounds
- ½ c of cold coffee
- 1 c flour
- ½ c salt
- Measuring cups
- Wax paper
- Mixing bowl
- Can or round cookie cutter
- Rolling pin (optional)
- Tools to make fossil impressions
 - Butter knife, toothpicks (round and/or flat), plastic animals, cookie cutters, etc.



Directions:

1. In the mixing bowl, stir together the cold coffee, coffee grounds, flour, salt. Mix well.
2. Knead the dough. Place dough on wax paper and flatten the dough with your hands or a rolling pin. Dough should be about ¼" - ½" thick.
3. Use can (or round cookie cutter) to cut out circle shapes for fossils. Other shapes can be used.
4. Make impressions in each circle using your desired tools by pressing into the dough.
5. Let your fossils dry overnight (may take longer depending on the thickness of the dough).

Ideas for play:

- Paint your fossils and add other details.
- Place fossils around the yard and go on an archeological dig to find them.

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

AUGUST 2022

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OCTOBER 2022

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Rosh Hashanah Begins

Rosh Hashanah Ends

Don't forget to download your Scientist Lab Book!





MAKE A PLAN TO COMMUNICATE

How do we develop skills and get better at something? We practice with lots of repetition!

AAC learners need the same practice and repetition. Implementing an AAC system means you have to plan for, and create opportunities to, practice communicating. The AAC device needs to be out and available. Know what words you want to model and where to find those words in the vocabulary!

Other things to think about when planning for opportunities are:

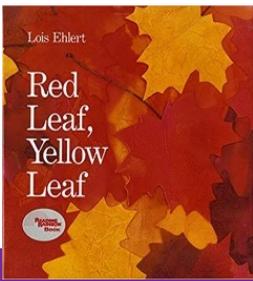
- What is a fun and engaging activity for your child/client?
- When can you spend 10-15 minutes to focus on modeling on the AAC device?
- What words will you model during this time, and where are they in the vocabulary?

PLAN	
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Use visual supports and other resources from our website to help you plan and create communication opportunities (Choosing Core – Activity, Core Word Planner, CE for visual supports, etc.)! With time, your communication will grow and feel more natural. Get started creating those opportunities!



Download resources
from ChatCorner!



Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert

What does the life cycle of a tree look like? A young child describes how a fallen seed sprouts and eventually is planted in his yard. Visit his tree in the fall to see his favorite time of the year.

cool, what, happened, next, probably, believe

LIFE
SCIENCE

OCTOBER 2022

The Colors of Fall!

Each year, we get to talk about science, nature, and weather with the changing of the seasons. The leaves changing colors is a beautiful time and provides an opportunity for learning. Have fun with this experiment learning about chlorophyll!

What do you need?

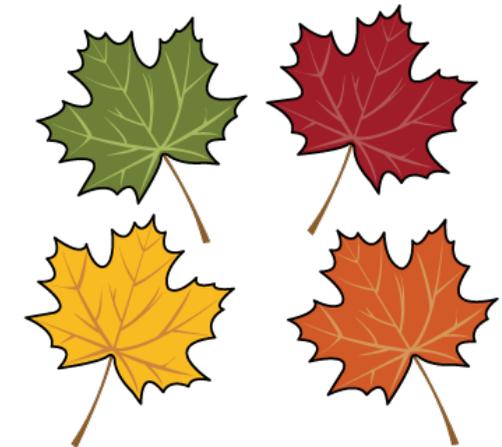
- Pot
- Tongs
- Water
- Rubbing alcohol
- Clear containers with lids (one for each leaf)
- Leaves

Directions:

1. Place pot of water on stove and bring to a boil. Once boiling, place all leaves in the water.
2. Boil leaves for five minutes.
3. While the leaves are boiling, fill each container with rubbing alcohol (enough to cover the leaf once placed in it).
4. After boiling for five minutes, use the tongs to place each leaf in a container. Close the containers.
5. Observe the changes throughout the day.

Ideas for play:

- What happens if you add two leaves of different colors to one container?
- Use the dyes created by boiled leaves to paint.



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 2022

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NOVEMBER 2022

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Yom Kippur Ends

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Halloween

Don't forget to download your Scientist Lab Book!





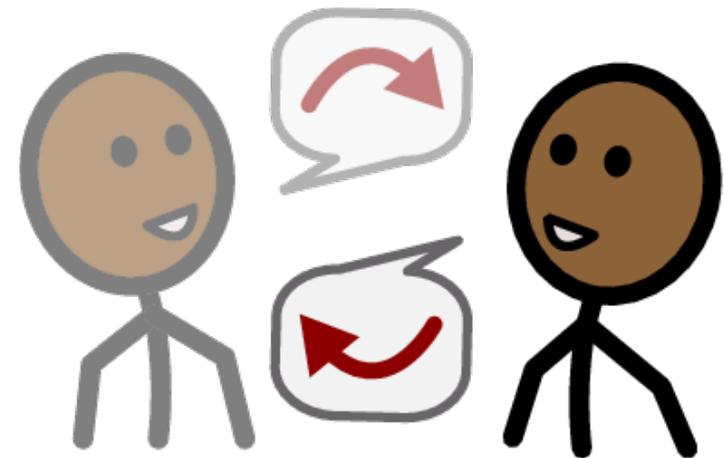
ALWAYS RESPOND TO YOUR AAC USER

How do we learn new words and about the world around us? We talk to others in our environment!

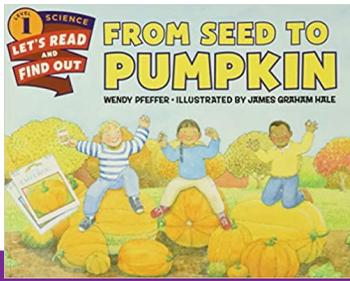
One advantage AAC users have is that they have THOUSANDS of words at their fingertips, and they don't even have to know what all the words mean before they say them. So, it's your job as the communication partner to always respond to the AAC learner!

When we respond to the individual using AAC, we are building skills and teaching individuals:

- When and how to use different words
- To increase socio-emotional confidence by showing them their voice has been heard
- To build pragmatic language skills, like turn taking
- To build and strengthen social relationships



Keeping your responses natural is the best way to connect with your AAC learner, teach them language, and demonstrate how to communicate in all environments.



From Seed to Pumpkin by Wendy Pfeffer
 Illustrated by James Graham Hale

How do pumpkins get so big? Find out how by reading! This book follows all the steps the tiny seed takes to grow into a large pumpkin. Learn what you can do to help it grow. Read along to watch the incredible journey from a tiny seed to a giant pumpkin!

it, is, great, then, agree, bet

LIFE SCIENCE

It Starts with a Seed!

Learn and watch seeds grow into plants with this indoor greenhouse. There is lots to talk about and learn with this activity. Don't delay! Start growing!

What do you need?

- Beans or seeds
- Sandwich size plastic bag
- Tape
- Paper towel



Directions:

1. Fold paper towels and dip in water. They should be damp, but not dripping. Next, place the paper towels in the bottom of the plastic bag.
2. Place your beans (or seeds) on the paper towels in the bag. Close and seal the bag.
3. Use tape to secure bag to a window that gets sunlight.
4. Check back daily to see the progress and growth of your seeds.

Ideas for play:

- Use different kinds of beans to compare how fast different plants grow.
- Use paper, markers, scissors, and tape to make a greenhouse frame for your plants.
- Create a log to note any changes you see from day to day.

NOVEMBER 2022

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Don't forget to download your Scientist Lab Book!



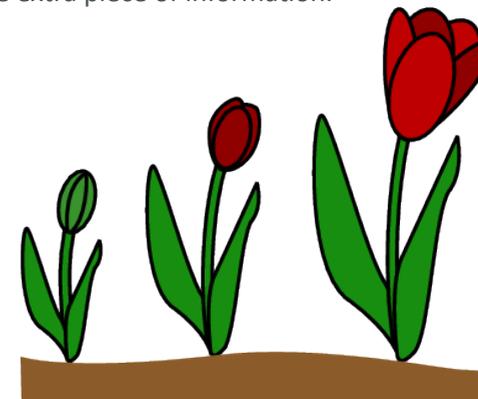


As another year comes to an end, so, too, does Mason and Mikey's time at the Great Lakes Science Center. We hope you had fun learning all about science!

HOW TO GROW LANGUAGE

How do you grow language?

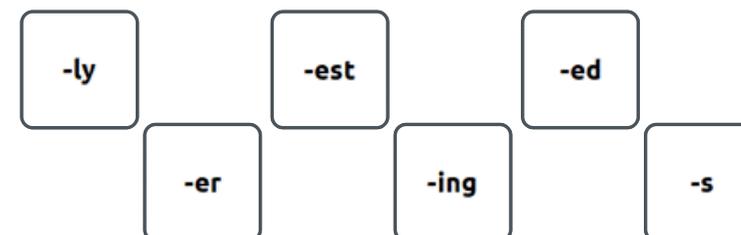
The best way to learn language is by hearing it and being exposed to it. In order for your AAC user to continue developing their language skills, you need to model more language on the AAC device. One helpful strategy for this is to repeat and expand (or recast). You do this by repeating what the AAC user said, and you add one extra piece of information.

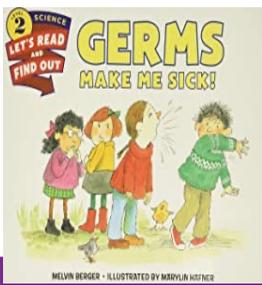


Depending on what you are working on, that extra piece of information can be:

- Another core word – a verb, an auxiliary verb, pronoun, describing word, question word, etc.
- A grammatical marker - -ing, -ed, -s, -'s
- An extra word – a noun, name, etc.

Work with your SLP, teacher, and team to decide what to model so that your AAC learner's language continues to grow. Language takes time to develop; it doesn't happen overnight. Just keep modeling and growing language!





Germs Make Me Sick! by Melvin Berger
Illustrated by Marilyn Hafner

Germs! Germs are everywhere but too small to see. Some germs are harmless, and some can make us sick. Learn all about germs and ways to stay healthy!

yikes, oh no, what, oh my, keep, learn

LIFE SCIENCE

DECEMBER 2022

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Christmas Day	Hanukkah Ends				New Year's Eve

Don't forget to download your Scientist Lab Book!

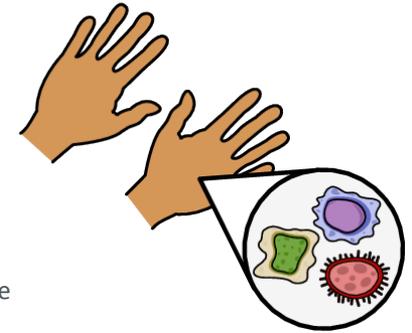


Don't Spread It!

We can't see them, but germs are all around us! This month's experiment is a great way to see germs, learn how we spread them, and identify the things we can do to stop the spread.

What do you need?

- Lotion
- Hand soap
- Glitter
- Plate or shallow dish
- Objects to touch



Directions:

1. Sprinkle enough glitter across the plate/dish to cover the bottom.
2. Put generous amount of lotion on hands and place hand on the glitter.
3. Touch other objects, shake hands, etc. to observe the transfer of germs.
4. When cleaning up, first wash hands with water only. Then add soap to observe how soap helps us clean better.

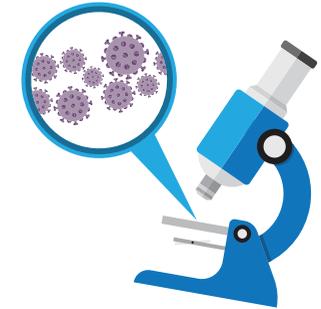
Ideas for play:

- Touch foods like bread, veggies, or chips, to demonstrate how important it is to wash our hands before eating.
- See how many people you can give your glitter germs to by shaking hands. Then see how many people they give the glitter germs to when shaking hands. Count how many people it was.





What did you do in the lab?



Science Experiments

- Explore Snow
- Make it Melt
- Magnificent Magical Milk

Physical Science Experiments

- Invisible Forces
- Matter is Everywhere
- Energy is All Around

Earth Science Experiments

- Explore the Ocean
- Make Your Own Geodes
- Make Your Own Fossils

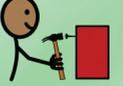
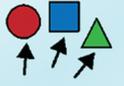
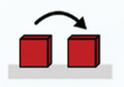
Life Science Experiments

- The Colors of Fall
- It Starts With a Seed
- Don't Spread It

Check off all the fun experiments you completed this year!
Don't forget to download and use your Scientist Lab Book to complete and record all the experiments, too!



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