

This is a flexible framework for providing just enough support to enable successful communication. Pair the VOICE Communication Partner Strategies with every interaction and at every level of the scaffolding hierarchy.

V – Value Wait Time – Use an expectant pause and allow time for processing and communication before providing additional support.

O – Offer Meaningful Opportunities – Create engaging, motivating activities and experiences that encourage authentic communication.

I – Input Through Modeling – Use aided language input by modeling language on the AAC system throughout daily interactions without expecting imitation.

C – Carry AAC Everywhere – Ensure AAC is available, accessible, and ready to use across settings and activities.

E – Expand and Recast – Add 1 - 2 words to and refine the AAC user's message to model richer language while honoring the intended meaning.

Least

Wait Time

Wait at least 10 - 15 seconds. Some communicators may need more time.

Gestural Cue

Use body language and facial expressions to facilitate a response (e.g., move AAC closer, gesture towards it, and invite user to communicate)

Visual Cue

Directly pointing to words/messages they may want to say.

Open-Ended Questions/Hint

Use an open-ended question or hint that encourages communication. Examples: "What do you think?", "What's next?.", "Ready, Set, ____.", "I like ____."

Verbal Cue

Model a possible response verbally.
Example: "Maybe say, *I need help.*" or "You could say, *help.*"

Model

Provide a visual and verbal model on the communication system as an example. Example: "You could say, ____.", "I would say, ____."

Most

Rethink the activity before adding more support.

Encourage Authentic VOICE and Expression by supporting all communication attempts and honor the individual's unique ways of expressing themselves.