



Successful Starts with a Core Board

1. Let's keep it really simple – start with choosing 2-5 words on the board.*
2. Next – adjust the way you speak to elicit a response (see examples below).
3. Model – you model both parts on the Core board using single words as you speak the sentence.
4. Model
5. Model
6. MODEL!
7. Make it fun and engaging!

Some examples throughout the school day – remember we want to have hundreds of opportunities a day if we are planning for success.

<p>Morning greeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I hope you had a good night." • "Let's go to school" • "I had a good night" • "I am not ready/happy today" • "I will help you." 	<p>Bed Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "It's time to go to bed." • "Need help or not?" • "Put your pajamas on?" • "Get a book to read?" • "Turn the lights off?"
<p>Reading a book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What do I have?" • "Should we read or turn the page?" • "Should we do more or stop?" • "Who likes this book?" 	<p>Snack time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Time to go to snack." • "Do you want help or not?" • "I like your snack." • "Do you want more or not?"
<p>Walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Let's go for a walk" • "Who wants to come?" • "Should we go fast or stop?" • "Where should we go?" 	<p>Free play/Free time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What should we play with?" • "Do you want to play with (friend) or not?" • "Who wants a turn?" • "Should we do more or stop?"

Troubleshooting

So they aren't using it –

- How much have you modelled on it? Refer to the page on modelling to see how much language input children need.
- How much fun is the activity you are doing? Do they want to participate?
- Can they physically access it or is it hard for them to reach it?
- Is it always available or just during activities?
- Are you waiting long enough for them to try and take a turn?

They just keep stimming on it –

- Keep modelling.

They don't look or attend to me when I use it.

- Modelling is never a wasted opportunity. It makes you a stronger communication partner. Sometimes it doesn't look like they are attending and we will see them go to it weeks or months later. Don't give up!

Check out the next page for more great tips!!

There are too many pictures!

- Children hear thousands of words every day. They get multiple visual inputs. They are bombarded with sensory information yet they are able, for the most part to cope. We don't limit our use of words with them to the ones they understand, we challenge them and expose them to more. Keep modelling, even if it appears to be too much, with time (maybe years worth of time) they will see the meaning if we build meaning and fun and real life into it.

*Still Struggling??

- Try using a dry erase marker to circle the words you're focusing on- or even a small sticker dot in the top corner of the icon box. This may help decrease your frustration with trying to find the one word on the board of possibly 84, especially if you are not looking at the core board straight on (ie upside down on the child's desk).