

Let's Chat: Assistive Technology Recipes for Success!

Doll



What do you need?

Baby doll, bottle/spoon, washcloth, blanket, place to play, you and your child

What do you say?

Core vocab: I/you, my, he/she, like, don't, want, play, need, eat, drink, sleep, go, more, stop, that, help, feel, please, feelings

<u>Language Purpose</u>	<u>One Word</u>	<u>Two Words</u>	<u>Three Words</u>
Requesting	Want, Help, That	Want that, Play that, Help me	I want that, She drink that Want help clothes
Commenting	Like, Don't	Like that, Feel tired Don't like, She sleep	I like that, I want it She don't like, She feel happy
Refusing	Don't, Stop	Don't want, Don't like Stop that	I don't want, Don't like it, I want stop
Directing	Eat, Drink, Sleep, Go	Eat/drink that Go bathroom, Go sleep	She eat that, You help me, He go bathroom
social	Feel, Please, My	My/your turn, Feel sad Drink please	You feel sad? I want turn

What do you do?

You can use the device to model as well as encourage your child to use it during play.

-use the baby or a stuffed animal to act out something. Pretend the baby is crying and you need to figure out what's wrong: "Feel sad?", "want drink?"

-Take turns with your child to take care of the baby. Think out loud while you use the device: "I wonder if she's hungry: 'want food?' She looks sleepy "feel tired? Want sleep?" "I can't get her clothes off, 'I need help!'"

-Have another baby doll or a stuffed animal handy and take turns acting things out "My turn eat", "she go bathroom"

-Act out how the baby might feel to give your child a chance to talk about feelings. "Yum, I like that bottle! I feel happy!"

What's next?

Playing with dolls or stuffed animals is a great way to practice the vocabulary we use in everyday life: at bedtime, bath time or during meals. As a parent, you want to help your child as much as possible, but it is important for them to learn how to use their device to ask for help, to tell you what they don't like to eat or to talk about what happened during their day. Don't anticipate what you think your child is thinking; he/she might surprise you! Give them lots of time to use their device. Wait. Let them ask for help rather than jumping in to help. Reinforce what they say by repeating it when they tell you something using device: "you told me 'want stop' so we can stop right this minute!" or "you told me 'more that', so I know you want more spaghetti!"

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Beach Ball



What do you need?

Beach ball, you, your child, a place to play

What do you say?

Core vocab: want, more, help, like, don't, that, stop, go, turn, my, your, you, I

<u>Language Purpose</u>	<u>One Word</u>	<u>Two Words</u>	<u>Three Words</u>
Requesting	Want, More, Help	Want that (with pointed finger, point to beach ball), You help, Help go	I want that (with pointed finger), You help me, I want stop
Commenting	Like	I like	I like ___ (it, that), I don't like it
Refusing	Don't	Don't want, Don't like	Don't want ___ (it, ball, that)
Directing	Stop, Go	I go, You stop, Go big, Go little	You stop it, You go please, I go big/little
Social	Turn, Please/Thank you	My/Your turn, Thank you ___ (mom/dad)	My/Your turn go

What do you do?

Playing with a beach ball is a fun way to incorporate movement into daily routines. The light weight of a beach ball makes it easy to toss back and forth, and you can play fun games with it like bouncing off different body parts. There are a variety of ways to use core vocabulary when playing with a beach ball.

- Use the device to say "want" to ask for the ball or to ask for "help" to toss or roll the ball.
- You can take turns tossing the ball back and forth using "my turn/your turn"
- As your child is playing with the ball and you are bouncing off different body parts, you can incorporate "like" and "don't like" to find out what are favorites.
- Refer to handouts on Direct Language Stimulation for ideas on how to model using the device!

What's next?

You can use the same language throughout other activities as well!

- Use "want" or "help" as requests in other activities such as climbing up in a chair, reaching something on a high shelf, etc.
- "My turn/your turn" can be used in various games or when trying to promote independence with daily living tasks to encourage your child to try a task more on his/her own. For example give them their sock and use the device to model "your turn", let them try and if it is hard then you can model "my turn" and give a little help.
- "Stop" and "Go" can be used on swings, wagon rides, or when playing with cars.