

Let's Chat: Assistive Technology Recipes for Success!

Computer Activities



What do you need?

Your child, communication device, and a computer or laptop

What do you say?

Core vocab: more, stop, go, turn, on, off, want, big, color, I/you/me, he/she/it, that, play, look, make, need, open, close, please/thank you, help, feel, what?

<u>Language Purpose</u>	<u>One Word</u>	<u>Two Words</u>	<u>Three Words</u>
Requesting	Want, Help, That, Open, Play	Play music, Turn on/off, Help me, Open it	I want make, Turn that on, Want that color purple, I play music
Commenting	Like, Don't, Feel	Like it, Feel happy, Don't like,	I like that, You don't like, I feel excited
Refusing	Don't, Stop	Don't want, Don't turn, Stop that, Don't read	Don't like it, I want stop, Don't want color red
Directing	Look, Turn, Fast,	Turn that, Please look, Read it	Read more that, Help me turn
Social	Please, Thank you, Turn, What?	My/your turn, Want that?	What you like? You like that? What you want?

What do you do?

Playing on the computer is often an extremely rewarding and motivating activity for children today. You can turn computer time into an enjoyable and interactive activity that you can share with your child. Ask your child what they want to do on the computer- "play music," "look" (at pictures), "make" or "color" (on paint program) or even "play game." You can help expand your child's utterances by saying, "You want play music" instead of only stating "play music." Have your child help you turn on the computer and use the device to talk about what you are doing, such as "turn on/off." Turn the volume down really low so that your child has to ask for help or has to tell you to "turn" or "turn up/down" the volume. You could also talk about "who" is going to turn the volume up/down, such as "I turn" or "you do." You can also take turns controlling the mouse and let your child know when it's your turn by saying "my turn" or "I do it." When watching a funny video or looking at silly pictures, you can make comments with your child such as "like it!" or "feel happy/silly." You can also ask your child questions, such as "what?" to talk about the pictures/videos- "what is he doing?" or "what is he wearing?" to target specific age appropriate vocabulary (for example verbs, clothing items). If your child needs assistance with this, you can model asking for help by using the device to say "help" or "need help."

What's next?

-You can use this vocabulary throughout a variety of activities with your child. Have your child tell you to "turn" on and off the TV, lights, a fan, or the faucet.

-Act out the pictures or videos that you played on the computer and you can tell each other to "feel silly" or "feel sad" as well as take turns "I do" or "you do."

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Create a Scrapbook



What do you need?

Photos, paper souvenirs, scrapbook cards and pages, markers and any other materials you have on hand to decorate pages (stickers, stamps, hole punches, colored paper, etc)

What do you say?

Core vocab: More, stop, go, turn, want, that, I/you, my/your, it, like, don't, feel, need, help, make, look, put, do, on/off, open/close, up/down, big/little,color

<u>Language Purpose</u>	<u>One Word</u>	<u>Two Words</u>	<u>Three Words</u>
Requesting	Want, That, Big, Help, Open, Turn, More	Want that, Need help, Open it, I want, More that	I want that, You open it, I color that, I need help, You help me
Commenting	Like, Don't, Feel, Look	Like that, Don't like, Feel happy, You look	I like that, Don't like that, You look that
Refusing	No, Stop, Don't	Stop that, Don't want, No more	I don't want, You stop that
Directing	Turn, Go, Do, Put	Put that, Don't do, Do more	You turn it, Make it color, I do it
Social	Feel, Turn, You/My, look	Feel excited (or other feeling vocab), My/ Your turn	I feel excited, Your turn go, You look that

What do you do?

Scrapbooking doesn't have to be complicated: it's a good chance to use photos, movie tickets, newspaper clippings, etc to talk about an experience and then share it with others later. Looking through a scrapbook together is a great way to encourage the AAC user to use a device to initiate conversation, tell a story and take turns describing pages. Work together to let the AAC user create the pages by offering choices of materials, photos and scrap book cards and having her direct you as you make the pages together. Ask open ended questions while modeling the words using the device:

- "which picture should we use?" **I want** -"what do you think this page needs now?" **need that** "Do you want the big card or the little card?" **want big, little** "what should we do next?" "I'm not sure I like this- what do you think?" **don't like.**

When you've finished your pages, give the AAC user opportunities to show them to others. Encourage the AAC user to choose what she would like to talk about. Ask others to give her plenty of time to create her message and take turns talking and asking about the pages. Everyone likes to tell stories about themselves or their families, give the AAC user lots of chances to do this!

What's next?

Create new pages together as a hobby as well as a way to celebrate and remember events: birthdays, vacations, field trips and holidays. Some families create a page-a-day and include remnants like a napkin from MacDonalds or a pretty fall leaf to talk about or remember the day. These "remnant books" can be as elaborate or as simple as you and the AAC user want them to be. Resources for remnant books follow: <http://www.pisp.ca/strategies/strategies13.pdf> ;

http://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clds/files/how-to-handouts/RemnantBooks_000.pdf

Software or tablet applications for scrapbooking or photo albums are another great alternative to paper scrapbooks: a few resources are listed below: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/stories2learn/id348576875?mt=8> ;

<http://www.shutterfly.com/digital-scrapbooking> ; <http://www.smilebox.com/scrapbooks/online-scrapbooks.html>