

CORE WORD: **Excuse me**

For Educators, Related Service Providers and Parents

Recasting

Recasting is a helpful strategy that assists individuals who use AAC gain expressive grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. When the communication partner immediately responds to utterances by modeling or 'recasting' a more expansive version of their message, (e.g., STUDENT: "want crackers" ADULT: "I want more crackers, please."), this provides a dynamic interaction where there is no expectation of repetition. It is recommended that the strategy of RECASTING is utilized frequently and vocally emphasized by changes in loudness and pause time. (Parker, 2012).

WAYS WE CAN USE THE WORD

INTERRUPT (e.g., **Excuse me**, I need more)

ASK FOR HELP (e.g., **Excuse me**, will you help me?)

CALL ATTENTION (e.g., **Excuse me**, did you drop this?)

APOLOGIZE (e.g., **Excuse me**, sorry for bumping into you; excuse a burp or cough)

ROUTINES AND SCHEDULES

Snack/mealtimes: When students are making requests for food or help, they can gain attention from whomever is serving food or helping by saying, "**Excuse me.**" ("Excuse me, I need a napkin." "Excuse me, can I have some goldfish?")

Circle: Adults can use puppets to explain and demonstrate appropriate use of the phrase **excuse me**. Adults can ask for suggestions and input from the students regarding how to shape the scenarios and situations.

PLAY

Adults can model and encourage saying, “**excuse me**, can I have a turn?” during structured and unstructured play.

Students can engage in pretend play:

-At a restaurant to a waiter or waitress: “Excuse me, can I have more water?”

-At a grocery or retail store: “Excuse me, where can I find...”

Recess: Teachers can stand in front of the door when the students line up for recess. Each student can say a polite and appropriate phrase using **excuse me**, such as, “excuse me, will you please move?”

READING

Here are some suggested books on YouTube that can assist in teaching the core word:

[Excuse Me! A Little Book of Manners](#), by Karen Katz - Read Aloud Picture Book - Trevor's Bedtime Stories

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cF-ZAI0PVtM>

[Excuse Me](#), by Dave Hughes and Holly Ife | Books Read Aloud for Children | Audiobooks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0l3sVMj2Gyg>

[Excuse Me](#), by Kate Bucknell | Book About Manners for Kids | Read Aloud Storyteller Fox

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2TKb0LNBjE>

[Hippo Says Excuse Me](#), by Michael Dahl | BeddiBooks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BK-XwZLMmPo>

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND VIDEO MODELING

Adults can manipulate the environment so that students can practice saying **excuse me** to get them to move:

- sit in a student's assigned seat
- stand in the doorway when a student is trying to leave
- block access to needed materials and wait for the student to say "excuse me" to move out of the way

Adults can model coughing or burping and then saying, "Excuse me."

SENSORY MOTOR

Adults can set up an obstacle course for students to complete and then randomly jump in the way. Students can say, "**Excuse me**" to request that the adult move out of the way.

VIDEOS, MUSIC, ANIMATED SHORTS

[The Courtesy Words Song | Learning Polite Words in English | Courtesy of Scratch Garden](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL_ym6QHjS1szUhzH9URPbDfILczfPHF6P&v=YVahJKMk2VY&feature=emb_logo

[Excuse Me. Where's the Bank? \(Asking the Way\) | Education Rap for Kids | English Song with Lyrics | English Singing](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgTkKGM0TWE>

[Young Adults](#)

Excuse Me Mr. - No Doubt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=it1aZBPuH4w>

STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES

To explicitly teach this phrase, adults can facilitate a discussion on when to say excuse me. Students and adults can role play situations in which they'd need to use the phrase, such as when someone is in the way, when they need attention, or when they want to excuse a bodily function (burping, coughing, passing gas). They can also collaborate to make a "social story" that outlines when and how to appropriately use the phrase "excuse me."

Students can pretend to run a grocery store. Students can ask each other for items (e.g., **excuse me**, do you have apples?), help (e.g., excuse me, will you get the cereal for me?) and other interactions (e.g., excuse me, did you drop this?).

ART OR SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

Students can create a mural as a group. While painting, they can ask each other for materials (e.g., **Excuse me**, can I have the blue paint?), help (e.g., Excuse me, can you show me how?), and space (e.g., Excuse me, can I sit here?).

USE OF APPS OR OTHER TECHNOLOGY

[*Manners Social Story and Speech Tool*](#) - Touch Autism. This app reinforces the use of the phrase **excuse me** in the context of a social story.

WORD WALL: Create a WordWall and add '**excuse me**' to the list.

READING and the Word Wall: Sound out the letters together. Have the students find the word on the AAC system.

WRITING and the Word Wall: Using a pencil or alternative pencil, have students try to type the word on the keyboard or write the word together.

[*Choosing Words for the Classroom Word Wall with Dr Caroline Musselwhite Video*](#)
Courtesy of Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium

For specific questions or more ideas regarding this core word Activity Sheet, please contact Sophie Goodwin, M.S., CCC-SLP @ sophieDgoodwin@gmail.com or Beth Kenney @ bkenney@hershey.k12.pa.us.

Thank you!