

# Ideas for Encouraging & Supporting AAC Users

**OOPS...**

I was trying to get you to say what **I** want you to say, **NOT** what **YOU** want to say!"



**YES!**

"Blue is my favorite! I wonder what color **YOU** like!"  
(Then... **Pause**!)



**Instead of**

**saying things like...**

"What is this?"

"Find ball."  
"Touch all done."  
"Push go."

"Tell me you're tired."

"Ask for a cookie."

"Say I want iPad."

Can we really know what someone is thinking, feeling, or wanting? NOPE!

"No, that's not a dog. That's a cat. Say cat."

"We're not talking about McDonald's.  
I asked if you want more bubbles."

"You can have a drink  
when you say drink."

Prompts & responses like these can **discourage** communication because they may feel like a test, a demand, or a correction.



**Try**

**using phrases like...**

"I SEE you yawning, **maybe** you're TIRED."

"I HEAR your TUMMY rumbling!  
**I'm thinking** you might be HUNGRY!"

 "I love to EAT COOKIES!  
**I wonder** what SNACK **YOU LOVE** to EAT!"

"I think this game is BORING!  
**I'm curious** what **YOU** think of this GAME."

"I saw you PUSH my hand AWAY.  
**Maybe you wanted to tell me** Do NOT TOUCH!"

 **TEACH** the language of self-advocacy!

Make sure you use the AAC system to point out key words while using inviting language.

Then... **Pause** to allow time to process & respond!

Suggested words to model with AAC are shown above in CAPS.

 Phrases like these allow you to **model and encourage** AAC use **WITHOUT** suggesting that you can read their mind.

Encouraging phrase suggestions from  
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