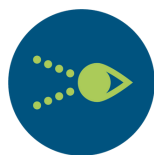


Using a Symbol Chart

Eye Pointing



This chart is designed to enable learners to use their eyes to point to symbols. The symbols are based around activities that are motivating and fun to increase engagement and success. Find more charts at acecentre.org.uk/resources.

Learners begin to understand how to use symbols by seeing others using them. Point to symbols on the chart while you talk and interact with the learner. You don't have to use your eyes - just use your finger. It's great if they begin to show interest in using the symbols too, but don't insist. It can take time ...just keep using it yourself!

Access

Hold the chart between you and the learner with the symbols facing the learner. Look through the opening in the middle. The eye contact helps you to follow where the learner is looking. Watch carefully. Respond to any symbol you think they have looked at by pointing to the symbol and speaking its label aloud. Don't feel anxious about misinterpreting. The activities are 'no fail' so you can learn together in a fun and relaxed way.

Learn more about eye pointing and alternative approaches to accessing symbol charts in our free eBook [Access to Paper-Based Symbol Resources When Pointing is Difficult](https://acecentre.org.uk/ebooks) by going to acecentre.org.uk/ebooks.

Vocabulary

This chart includes words related to the topic as well as the core words **more** and **stop**. Core words are powerful as they allow learners to take control. They can be used on their own or put together with topic-related (fringe) words e.g. **more bubbles**, **stop sing along**.

Practical tips

Laminating the chart will help to protect it. Before laminating, cut out the central opening and write the symbol labels on the back of the chart behind the corresponding symbols. This will help you follow what the learner is pointing to. Use a matte laminator pouch to avoid light reflection. You will need to cut out the central opening again after laminating.

Next steps

This chart is a first step towards developing a full communication system. Next steps will include developing a communication book with a wide range of core and topic vocabulary. One approach to consider is Ace Centre's guide [Look2Talk](https://acecentre.org.uk/resources/look2talk). Follow the QR code or go to acecentre.org.uk/resources/look2talk for more information.



This chart was created using symbol-based software:

Widgit Symbols: In Print3 from www.widgit.com

Picture Communicate Symbols (PCS): Boardmaker 7 from www.tobiidynavox.co.uk



Want to learn more about supporting learners on their AAC journey?
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