

Using a Symbol Chart

Hand Pointing



This chart is designed to increase learners' engagement and success with symbols by bringing them into an activity that is motivating and fun. More charts can be found at acecentre.org.uk/resources.

Learners begin to understand how to use symbols by others showing them how it is done. You need to use the chart yourself, pointing to symbols while you talk and interact with the learner. It is great if they begin to point too, but don't insist. It can take time ...just keep using it yourself!

Vocabulary

This chart includes words related to the topic as well as core words such as **more**, **stop**, **like** and **want**. Core words are powerful when used on their own or when put together with topic-related (fringe) words e.g. **more tea**, **like bubbles**, **want book**.

As the learner gets going, reinforce learning by repeating what they have communicated and adding an extra symbol. For example, if they pointed to **want** and **bubbles**, you could reply "you want more bubbles" while pointing to the symbols **want**, **more** and **bubbles**.

Access

This chart is designed with symbols spaced out to support pointing to them accurately using a hand, fist or other body part. Learn more about this and other access options in **Chapter 7** of **Getting Started with Paper-Based Symbol Resources** or by following the QR code below:



To learn more follow the QR code for our free eBooks or go to acecentre.org.uk/ebooks

Practical tips

Laminating the chart protects it and can make it easier to use. Use a matte laminator pouch to avoid light reflection. If the chart moves whilst the learner is using it, try securing it to a surface with Blu Tack® (or similar) or a non-slip mat (e.g. Dycem®).

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. Ace Centre's guide **Developing and Using a Communication Book** is one approach to consider.

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

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