Using a Core Word Chart

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 learn 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's great if they begin to point too but don't insist. It can take time ... just keep using it yourself!

Vocabulary

Core words are useful words that can be used in lots of different settings or activities. They are used frequently by speaking children from early stages of communication. *Want! Go! Big!*

As a learner gets going, introduce them to new symbols. Reinforce learning by repeating what they have communicated and adding an extra symbol. When chatting with core symbols you can say lots of different things. Depending on what symbols are available, you might ask questions "you want?" give instructions "go there" or a description "it big!"

Access

This chart was designed to be used by pointing to the symbols. If the learner finds that difficult it can be used in different ways. Learn how in our free resource Access to Paper-Based Symbol Resources When Pointing is Difficult by following the QR code below:

To learn more follow the QR code for Getting Started with Paper-Based Symbol Resources or go to acecentre.org.uk/ebooks

Practical tips

Laminating the chart will help to protect it. Matte laminator pouches tend to work better as glossy ones can reflect overhead lighting.

Next steps

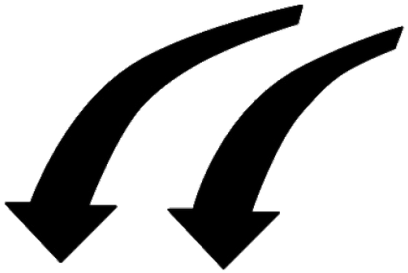
This chart is a first step towards developing a full communication system. Next steps will include developing a communication book with a wide range of core and topic vocabulary. Ace Centre's guide Developing and Using a Communication Book is one approach to consider.

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

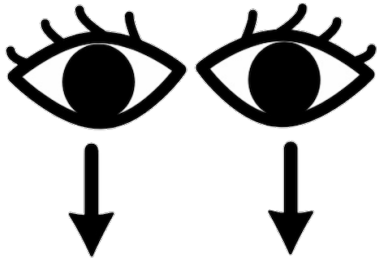
Want to learn more about supporting learners on their AAC journey?
Visit Ace Centre Learning for live and on demand training
acecentre.org.uk/learning

Core Words

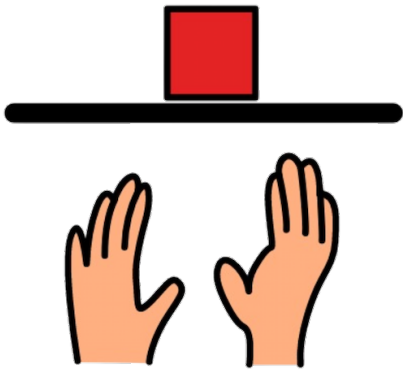
more (again)



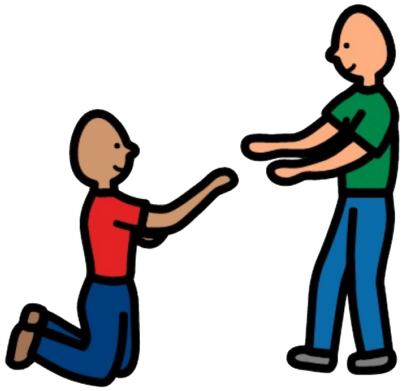
look (see)



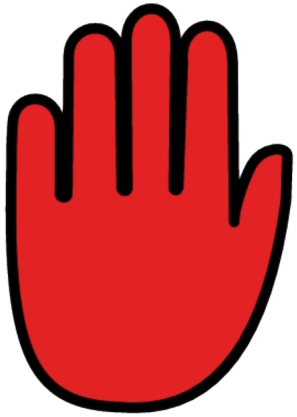
want



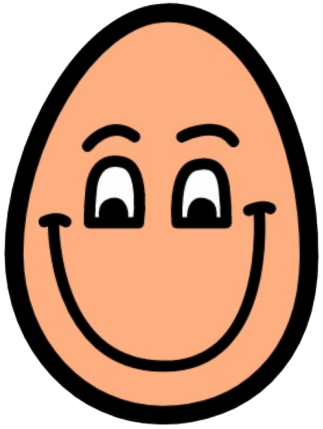
help



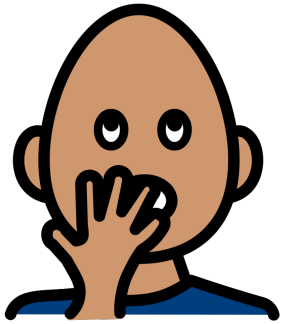
stop (finish)



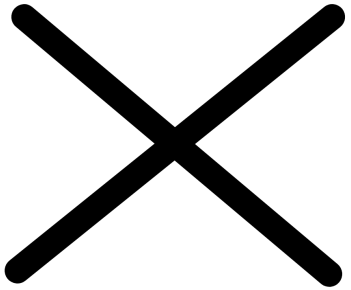
like



oh no!



not (no)



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