

Strategy: Declarative Language

How you speak with your AAC learner can have a big impact on how they experience the interaction. You can choose words to create a comfortable, engaging interaction. Declaratives (e.g., comments, statements) do not demand a response or put your AAC learner on the spot. You can use comments and statements to model language, invite participation and highlight your shared experience. Talk about the same things; just say it a little differently!



What do you want to eat? Tell me with your talker.

What's that? What do you see?

What do you want?

Tell her what we did yesterday.

How do you feel?

Get the book



I wonder what we should EAT for lunch. I know you LIKE mac and cheese!

Wow! I SEE a plane. COOL!

I see you standing by the door. GOING OUT is a great idea!

We saw a movie. That was FUN!

Oh, that's hard! You seem FRUSTRATED!

Oh, THAT's a GREAT book.



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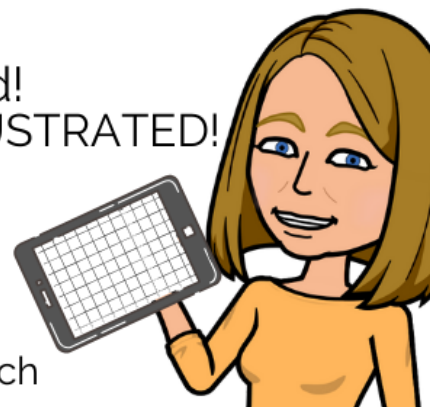
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So often our AAC learners get bombarded with questions and directions. We have things we want to know and we're trying to get through the day. The problem is that constant questioning can increase anxiety, make the interaction less enjoyable, and teach them that their primary role is to be a responder. That's not what we want or intend! Declarative language is a great way to change the dynamic!

