

Strategy: Model Key Words & Expand with Speech

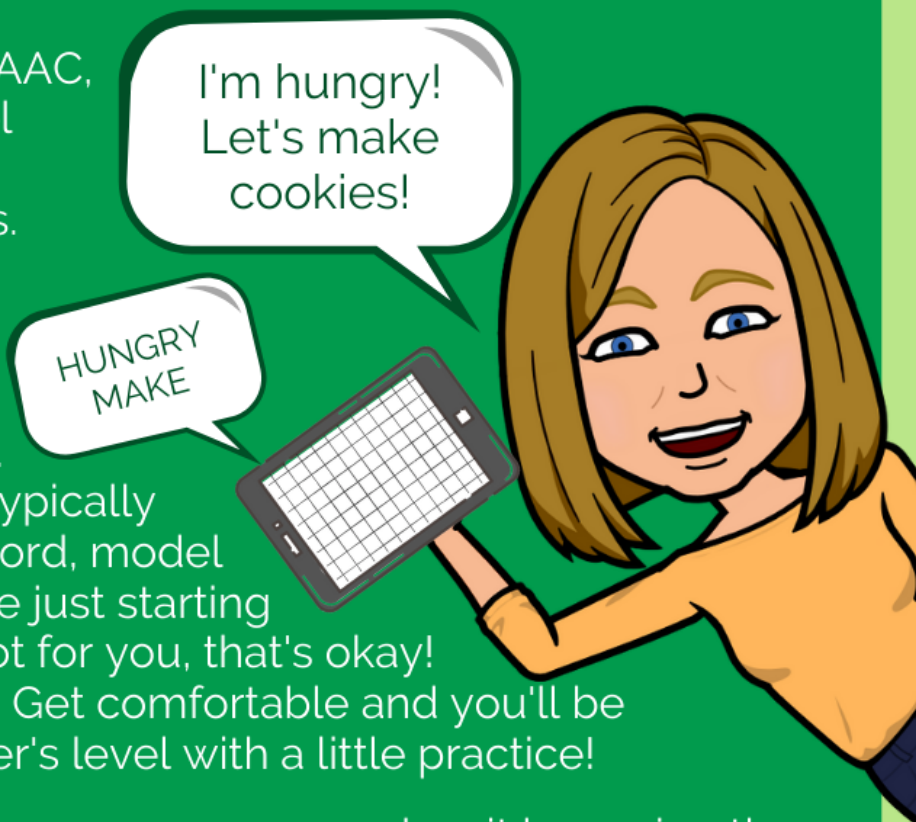
When you begin modeling AAC, it's NOT necessary to model using complete sentences. Just model a few key words.

Use the AAC system to produce a message 1-2 words longer than your learner's independent level.

That means if your learner typically communicates using one word, model 2-3 word messages. If you're just starting out and that sounds like a lot for you, that's okay! Model one word messages. Get comfortable and you'll be modeling above your learner's level with a little practice!

After you have modeled your message, expand on it by saying the full sentence using speech. This strategy keeps the interaction going at an engaging pace. It also allows your learner to hear the language within a full grammatical sentence.

As your learner's skills develop, you can start to model longer sentences and/or targeted grammar skills (e.g., verb tenses, plurals).



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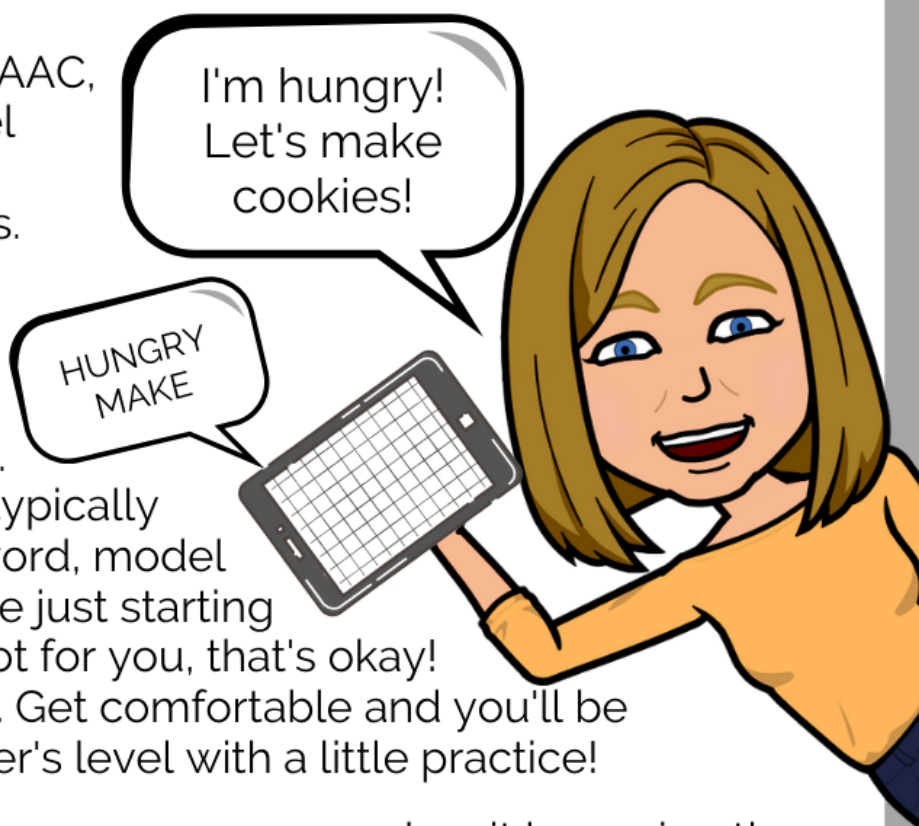
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When many parents and professionals begin modeling AAC they often wonder if they should be modeling in full sentences. If we model full sentences, we'll slow the interaction down too much and probably lose our learner's attention. Instead, model a couple key words using AAC and then say the full sentence using speech!

Please Note: The modeling handouts I am sharing provide examples of the key words you might model on your learner's AAC system. Make sure you're are expanding those into full sentences using speech!

