

## Enrichment Activity Suggestions for Supporting Communication: Elementary School

There are lots of ways that we can support language and communication throughout our day when just doing things together, reading together, playing some of our favorite games or just making up games. We have put together some suggestions and examples. These ideas will likely give you more ideas, so have fun!

*We have ideas for support language and communication with:*

- Games (board games, card games, etc.)
- Made-up games
- Books
- Online games, apps, music or TV shows
- Household activities
- Outdoor Activities

*We also have some thoughts and ideas about structuring your time at home, with different schedules, like:*

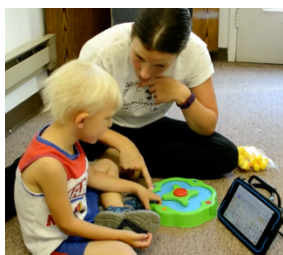
- A Week of (FUN) Work ideas
- First/then boards
- Tasks lists

*Some things to remember:*



- **Create opportunities for communication:**

Don't just play the game or read a book. Stop to point out a color, character or something cool. Pause and say, "look at you," or ask, "what do you like the most?" Before you turn the page wait to encourage saying "turn it" or "do more."



- **Model, model, model**

Talk in the way your child/student is expected to communicate. Point to picture, select a color on their device while pointing to colors on a page or in a game, or just offer a comment like, "what you did was COOL."



Most AAC devices have a word search feature if you don't know where they are. **Proloquo2Go:** bottom left corner icon with four squares then Search. **LAMP Words for Life:** in the MENU, then WORD FINDER. **Accent/PRC:** under DEVICE activity and then WORD FINDER.

## Supporting Language and Communication During Games



### Guess Who?

This game is full of questions and chances to talk about hair color, eye color, hats, yes and no, and more. You can work together as a team making the game a time to play together. You can say or ask:

- Is it brown/blue/yellow...
- Do you have a boy?
- Is it a girl?
- Look at her hair
- Do you like her hat?
- What are these (glasses)?
- Can I do it?
- Help lift up
- I see brown hair
- I love these (glasses)
- You do it
- Put down
- Lift up
- So funny
- No hair
- Nice hair



### Trouble

The race is on with this game Numbers, colors, turn-taking and commenting are all possible with Trouble! You can say or ask:

- My turn
- Your turn
- Make it go
- What number is it?
- You moving this or that?
- What color?
- Oh no!
- Don't take me out
- I got 1/2/3/4/5
- I got more
- Push it
- I got more
- Back you go
- I am in
- I got you
- Phew, you did not get me



### Hungry Hippos

Yum, yum, yum. It is a race to eat all the balls with this game. While you play this fast-paced game, you can use a lot of different words and phrases:

- Go fast
- I got one
- This is awesome
- Oh no!
- I got more
- I got a lot
- You ate mine!
- My color is green
- Your color is blue
- Don't eat mine
- Woah
- Don't push mine

## Supporting Language and Communication During Made-up Games

### Charades or Simon Says



Act is out or tell someone what to do. These acting out game is full of chances to support language and communication. Write or draw some pictures, if you don't have the game, then cut them out and put them in a hat. Pull them out one at a time and try to act out the word or tell someone to do the action. Use your child's AAC system to make guesses at a word or category, or ask yes/no questions, or to tell them what to do. Also, use comments!

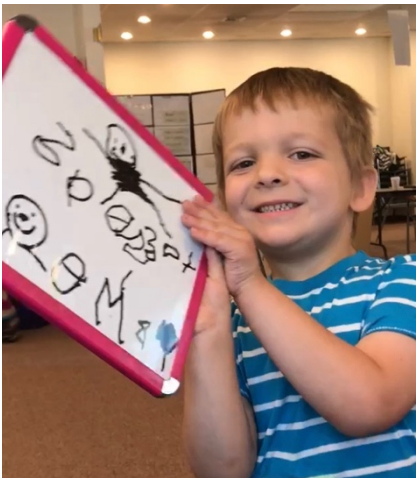
- Is it an animal?
- Is it a person?
- Is it a place you go?
- Is it something you eat?
- That was awesome!
- So funny!
- I do it
- You do it
- Jump up
- Sit down
- Hands on head
- Do it again



### I Spy

Whether you have the same, book, or play it without any tools, this is a fun way to practice questions. If you don't have an AAC system you can use a language board or even just draw words and pictures as you play. Once the item is guessed then that person who guessed it correctly, goes next. Ask questions like:

- Is it an animal?
- Is it big?
- Is it little?
- Is it a toy
- Help me
- Is it brown/yellow/red?
- I see ...
- Am I close?
- Oh man!
- Did I get it?



### Pictionary

Write or draw some pictures, if you don't have the game, then cut them out and put them in a hat. Pull a picture/word and try to get your partner to guess the word. Use your child's AAC system to make guesses at a word or category, or ask yes/no questions. Make comments and have fun!

- Is it an animal?
- Is it a person?
- Is it a place you go?
- Is it something you eat?
- Is it a feeling?
- Something big?
- Do you sit on it?
- I do it
- You do it
- I love that
- That was good
- You get one
- Can I have one
- Draw more

## Supporting Language and Communication With Books and Book Resources

Shared book-reading is one of the best ways to support language, communication and AAC use. Books and articles or magazines offer pictures we can point to and talk about. Remember, you don't have to be able to read to enjoy looking at books and magazines. The pictures can tell stories too!

- When you read the words of the book, or point to the pictures in the book, or even tell your own story about the pictures you see you are supporting language.
- You can also point to pictures on a language board or your child's device to help them use AAC as well.



When talking about books you can use words or phrases like:

- Turn the page
- Read more
- Look at that
- I don't like
- You do it
- I do
- Do it again

When talking about pictures in books you can label what you see and use words or phrases like:

- I like it
- Look
- What that?
- Help me
- Read loud/read soft
- Can I do it
- You do it

In addition to reading the books or magazines you may have at home, here are some online resources for accessible and adapted books:

**Epic!**  
<https://www.getepic.com>

**Reading A to Z**  
<https://www.raz-plus.com>

**Adapted Video Books**  
<http://bit.ly/ReadingToRoar>

**StorylineOnline**  
<https://www.storylineonline.net>

# Supporting Language and Communication With Online Games, Apps, Music and TV Shows

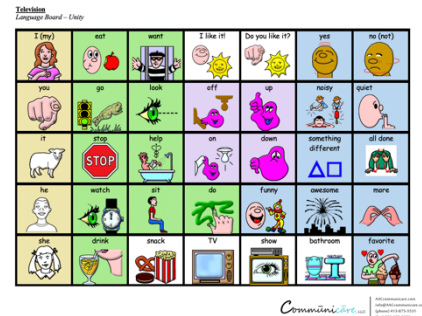
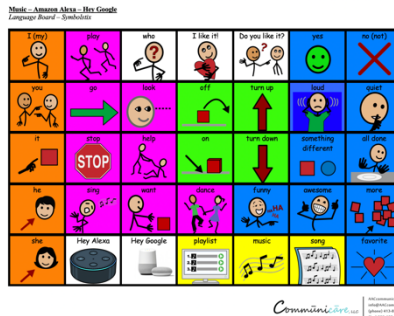
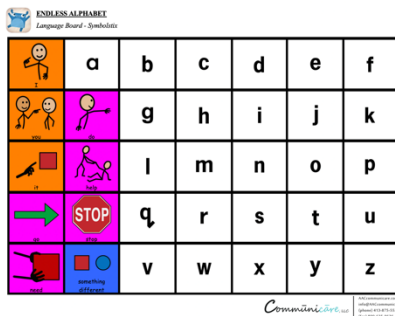
Motivation is important!

For some people, working on the computer or iPad, listening to music, or watching TV is what they would like to talk about.

Using these motivating activities as an opportunity to support language and communication can be fun for everyone involved. We suggest using language boards or your child’s AAC system alongside these activities to support communication and language.

You can model words and phrases like:

- I like it
- Look at that
- What that?
- Help me
- Want something different?
- Can I do it?
- Can I see it?
- Is that cool?
- You do it
- That was good
- Do more
- Want do more
- Play it again
- Play more
- Turn it up
- Turn it down
- That was awesome
- Play different
- I don’t like that
- Awesome
- Good one
- Good thinking
- One more turn



Search for fun online programs. One of our favorite is LEGO:

<http://bit.ly/LEGOgames>

## Online Lego Games:

A variety of Lego building games using your mouse to build bridges or knock things down. Your child may need some help with mouse control.

- Go fast
- Help me
- Blue/green/red
- Oh no!
- Cool!
- Yikes!
- Put on
- Up/down
- Put more
- Big/little

Some fun apps are:

## Supporting Language and Communication With Household Activities

Sometimes the best kinds of activities involve just doing things together. For some people, joining you in what you are doing is just as fun as playing games. We can always model language and support communication.

Using these everyday household activities as an opportunity to support language and communication can be fun for everyone involved. We suggest using language boards or your child's AAC system alongside these activities to support communication and language.

You can model words and phrases like:

### When cooking:

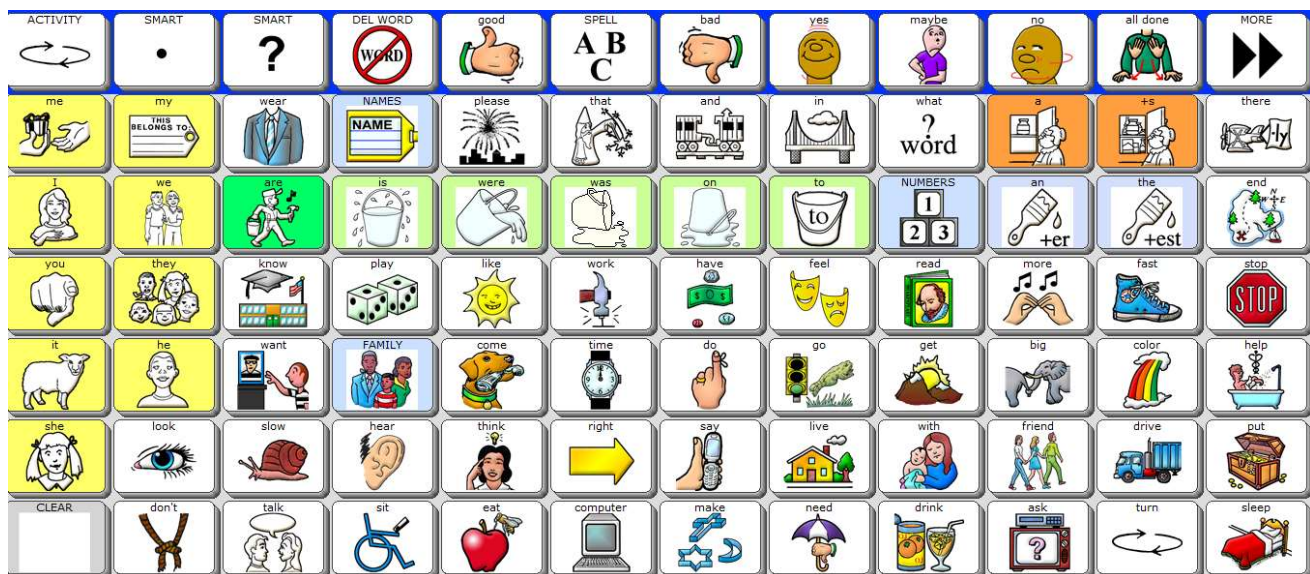
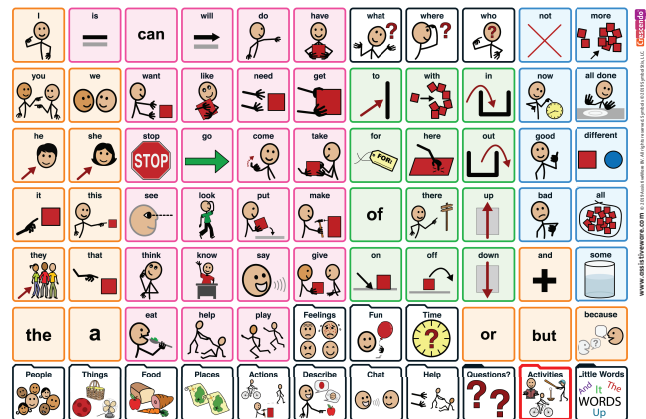
- I like it
- Look at that
- What that?
- Help me
- Want something different?
- Can I do it?
- You help

### When doing laundry:

- Put it
- Take out
- Look at this
- Help find...
- Find a match
- I like this (color)
- You put in

### When having a meal:

- What is that?
- Do you like...?
- I like
- Yum!
- Tell me more
- What you think?
- What's your favorite?



## Supporting Language and Communication With Outdoor Activities



### Obstacle Courses

The fun is not just in going through the obstacle course but in making it. Materials could include sidewalk chalk, cones, buckets, hoola hoops, balls, cars, etc. As you play you can say or ask:

- I like it
- Haha
- Oh man!
- This is fun
- Awesome
- Go in/out/around
- You go
- I go
- Look at me
- Go fast/go slow
- Do more
- Go different way



### Swinging

Movement can be really motivating. Have fun on the swing or in the playground and pause or wait to say or ask:


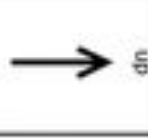






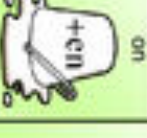



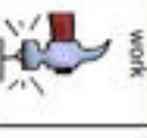














- My turn
- Your turn
- Make me go
- Go fast/slow
- I want up/down
- Do more
- I want more
- Do different
- You push
- Push more



### Playing Ball Games

Whether you are playing basketball, toss, bowling, dodgeball, or square ball, we can bring in some communication to life. This is easiest to do when pausing between turns to talk about it versus wearing the AAC system while playing. You can use language such as:

- Go fast
- I got one
- This is awesome
- Oh no!
- You can't get me
- I did it
- Way to go
- Awesome
- That was fast
- Do again

 finished	 mine	 little	 up	 yes	 good	 some	 no	 down	 out	 off	 bad
 I	 we	 are	 is	 wrote	 was	 on	 to	 SPELLING	 an	 the	 end
 you	 they	 new	 play	 like	 work	 have	 feel	 read	 more	 fast	 stop
 it	 he	 want	 all	 come	 time	 do	 go	 get	 big	 color	 help
 she	 look	 slow	 hear	 think	 right	 said	 live	 love	 follow	 ride	 put
 CLEAR	 not	 talk	 sit	 eat	 find	 make	 need	 drink	 watch	 burn	 sleep

Vocab

Menu





People	I	you	he	she	we	is	can	will	do	have	what?	where?	who?	not	more												
Things	it	that	this	stop	want	like	go	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	of	for	to	where?	with	here	in	out	in	now	all done		
Food	eat	think	see	look	help	know	play	say	put	come	need	get	have	do	will	can	is	they	it	the	a	the	a	the	a	the	a
Places	help	know	look	go	like	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
Actions	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
Describe	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
Feelings	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
Chat	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
Help	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
Questions?	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
Activities	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
Little Words	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
because	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
some	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
all	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with
different	play	say	put	come	need	get	take	make	give	on	off	there	up	down	in	out	here	with	here	with	here	in	out	here	with	here	with

