Selections with AAC

Operational Emergent:

Goal

Makes selections on a given page with or without intention and with no expectation that the user will independently navigate to the page.

Preparation

- Select a type of entertainment that is most motivating to the individual. For assistance in selecting a motivating activity or topic, try our Interest Inventory here: Topic Interest Inventory .
- This could be music, videos, reading, cartoons, singing, etc.
- Activity/Interaction selected:_____
- Locate an appropriate page on the device or in their communication book for the activity selected (e.g., Music Topic in TD Snap Core First).
- In TD Snap Core First, there may also be enrichment activities that go with the activity you selected. For example, the individual can use the Google Assistant pages in the Dashboard to control music or the accessible books through the Boardmaker Activities pages.
- Review the vocabulary within that page or activity before beginning the interaction.

Materials

- Communication book or device. Create your own communication boards (templates included in a Boardmaker 7 subscription).
- Materials needed for selected activity (e.g., favorite video clips).
- Supports if needed.

Tips for Success

- Remember to model. (Modeling AAC Example) As you explore the device touch and say what you are doing aloud in front of the individual.
- At this linguistic level, we do not expect the individual to independently locate (navigate to) the targeted page.
- Inconsistency is normal at first. You may have to repeat this activity multiple times.
- Make sure to wait even longer than you expect to see if the individual will touch the system.
- No matter what they select, reinforce or act on whatever they communicate.

Topic Interest Inventory

Scan QR code

Boardmaker 7

Scan QR code

Modeling AAC Example

Scan QR code

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Activity with Steps

1 Introduce the selected activity (e.g. control the music through smart assistant) and review what you will be doing. For example, "I'm going to touch here to turn your favorite song on and here to turn the volume up!"

2 Begin doing the activity (e.g., playing the song) using the vocabulary you reviewed or if using TD Snap Core First, you can go through the smart assistant application in the Dashboard.

- Note: If you are using the TD Snap Core First Scanning Page Set there are pages in the Learn to Scan area of the Dashboard to also practice this activity.

3 Set up situations in which a response is expected from the individual (e.g., wait to turn back on their favorite song).

4 Appropriately respond and acknowledge any selection they make whether you believe it had intent or not, (e.g., you told me 'all done' so I turned the music off).

Supplemental Activities

Repetition with variety is very important in teaching AAC. Create practice opportunities that are not boring by keeping the skill constant and varying the activity. Use the following scenarios during the day to work on this goal using the same steps in the activity above.

Practice making selections on the system during the following:

- Shared Reading
- Mealtime
- Classroom
- Games
- Play time
- Outings
- News Sharing
- Computer activities
- Recess
- TV

Measuring Success

- Increased attention to the interaction.
- Movement towards the device or communication book.
- Increased number of selections, even if items may not be relevant.
- Initiation of making a selection.

> **Note**
> The individual does not have to 'master' this goal at 80% accuracy before you can move on to the next one. Even if they don't meet the goal consistently, or without cueing, the individual may still be ready to move forward to the next goal.

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Parent/Caregiver Letter

Date: _____

Dear: _____

I'm sending this letter to let you know that we are working on making selections to explore. You will play an important part in the learning process.

How? You can reinforce the skills we address here, at home.

- **Model targeted responses in a variety of activities and environments.** During your daily activities, touch the communication system yourself and verbalize what you are doing. Modeling will feel more natural to you the more you do it.
- Complete the attached suggested activities to get you more familiar with the system.

I will be sending more activities and suggestions home. Provide any feedback and contact me with any questions. The more you can practice, the better! I'm looking forward to hearing more about the fun you have working on this skill.

Sincerely,

_____

Activities for carryover

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

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