Storing Messages for Later Use

Strategic Independent:

Goal

Plans ahead to contribute effectively to a conversation or presentation.

Preparation

- Determine if the individual has an appointment, a presentation, or a meeting coming up soon.
- If so, use that for the activity. If not you may need to plan a 'mock' appointment or speech.
- Review the vocabulary in the individual's communication system before starting the session.
- Also review how it may be best for them to store messages for later as independently as possible.
    - In TD Snap Core First, you can do this by saving the message window to a blank button on a specific page using the 'copy to a button' choice under the Share function.

Materials

- Communication device.
- A list of upcoming meetings, appointments, or a created scenario.
- Supports if needed.

Tips for Success

- As you explore the device touch and say what you are doing aloud in front of the individual.
- There are operational goals that address the use of message window tools such as 'copy to button' if needed.
- Multiple videos and instructions are also available on how to edit in TD Snap Core First if needed: TD Snap Support.

TD Snap Support

Scan QR code

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Activity with Steps

Activity: Preparing for a specific or new situation

1 Introduce the selected activity, "Often times we don't know what messages we are going to need to say next. However, sometimes we do. We can plan ahead for certain interactions when we know what we will want to say. For example, maybe you have a speech for a class coming up, an appointment with a doctor, or just lunch with an old friend. You can pre-program your AAC system with the messages you know you want to use."

- Review what preprogrammed phrases they use the most. If using TD Snap Core First, look at what Topics or Word Lists they pull from a lot.

2 "Let's work on adding new prestored messages to get ready for an upcoming conversation. Do you have something coming up or should we make up a situation?"

- Next, focus on where in the device to save the messages. Can they fit in a current page or should a new page be created?

3 Work together to decide on an interaction in which it would be helpful to create some saved messages. Next, work on the messages that will most likely be used. These can be questions, stories, or longer narratives.

4 Once you have completed saving some messages in an appropriate and easy-to-find location, practice or role-play the situation and focus on the proper sequence and timing of the messages.

5 Afterward, show the individual how to delete those messages once they are no longer needed.

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. Send some of these home as practice activities:

- Presentations

  - Begin a weekly 'presentation' schedule. This could be as easy as giving a weekend recap on Monday mornings or a weekly summary on Friday afternoons. Help the individual store things as the weekend or week goes on so they can speak them later.

- Creating and using prestored messages can also be practiced during the following scenarios:

  - Meetings
  - Appointments
  - Phone calls
  - Interviews
  - Transportation requests
  - Delivery requests
  - Conversations with friends
  - Video calls

Measuring Success

- Improved quality of interactions with varied listeners.
- Increased efficiency of a conversation.
- Initiation of saving messages for later use.
- Increased advocacy for self and communication preferences.

> **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 saving new messages into the AAC system for an upcoming interaction. 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 device yourself along with your speech. Modeling will feel more natural to you the more you do it.
- Complete the attached suggested activities to get 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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