

Training Cards



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FAQ

What is Core First?

Core First is a collection of communication tools that allow individuals to communicate in an efficient and precise manner. The page set grows with the user and can be easily customized. It is based on core words, a small set of flexible words that make up roughly 80% of what we all use in many daily situations.

What is the purpose of all the different tools?

The tools in Core First work together to support engagement (with Topics, Supports, and Quickfires), Literacy (Core, Word Lists and Keyboard) and Growth (various grid sizes).

What is the benefit of having visual supports?

Visual supports help individuals know what is happening during an activity, understand expectations, and self-regulate. Supports in Core First include: First-Then, Mini Schedule, Social Story, Scripts, and Visual Timer. Visual supports can be found on each Topic page.

How do Topics work?

Topics support interactions in specific environments or around particular topics. These are primarily phrase-based messages that allow an individual to communicate quickly and efficiently. We recommend customizing Topics with messages that are meaningful to the individual in order for them to be the most effective.

Topics allow individuals to engage in meaningful conversations and show what they know even more than their current language and literacy skills may allow.

How does the Toolbar work?

The toolbar allows access to all the various communication tools that may be needed on every page. You can hide or add buttons to the toolbar.

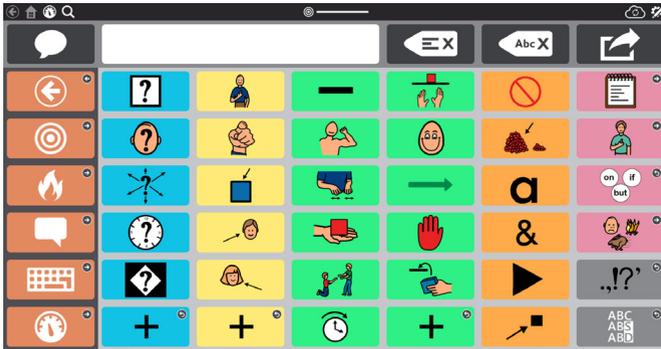
How can I grow the vocabulary?

There are two different methods of growing vocabulary in Core First. One way is to increase the grid size. Vocabulary stays in relatively the same position however you may need to make some adjustments. Another way to grow vocabulary is to start on a larger grid size than you think is needed and hide buttons. As the individual becomes more proficient you can unhide buttons to grow their vocabulary.

TD Snap Core First Glossary

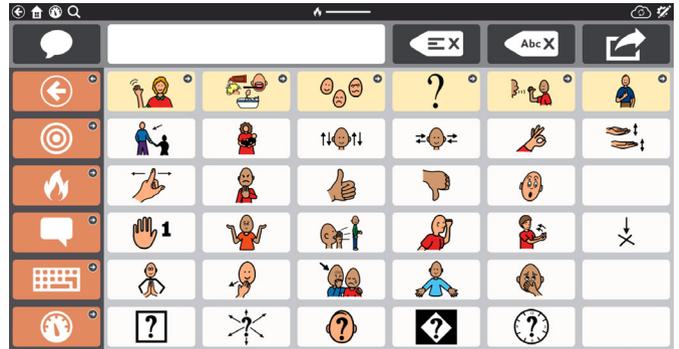
Core

A small set of frequently used words that can be combined to create unique messages.



QuickFires

Little words and phrases that are used in everyday environments to keep the conversation going, gain attention, or comment.



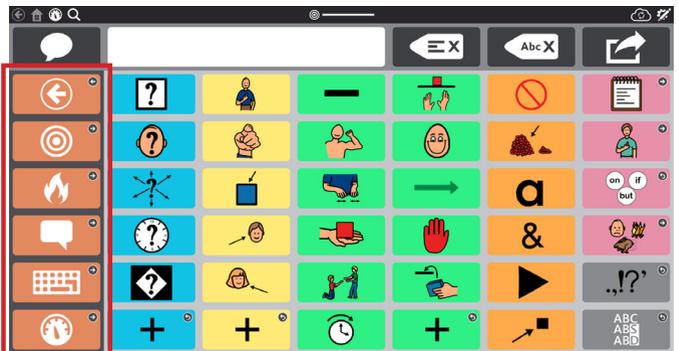
Topics

Pre-stored messages, organized by communicative intent, related to a specific situation or environment.



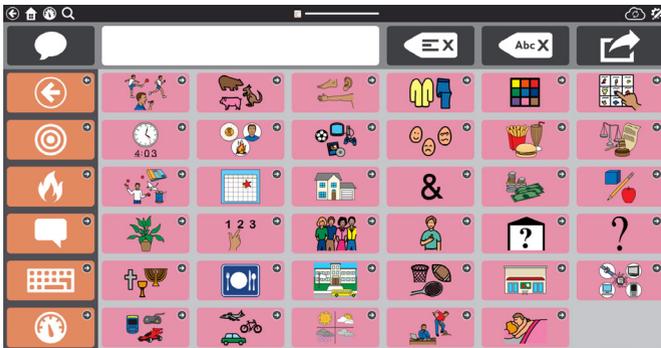
Toolbar

The Toolbar is where all the communication tools are located. Find tools like Core, Topics, and QuickFires from here.



Word Lists and Topic Words

Lists of words are organized by category (e.g. food, pets, etc). Topic Words are organized by category and related to a particular topic.





Supports

Supports are found in each Topic. They help individuals with self-regulation by making expectations more concrete, permanent, and clear.

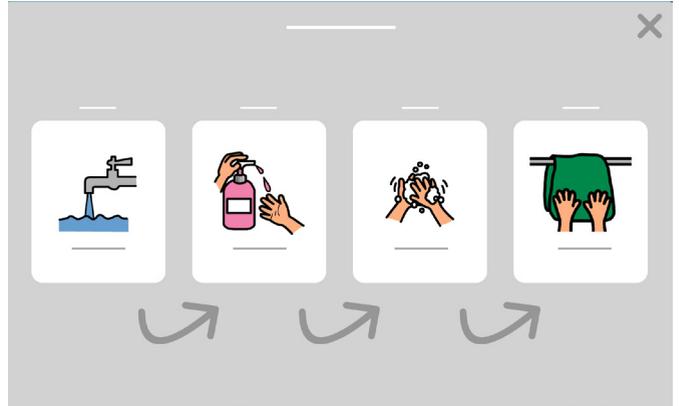
First...Then

Show an individual what will happen first and then what will happen after.



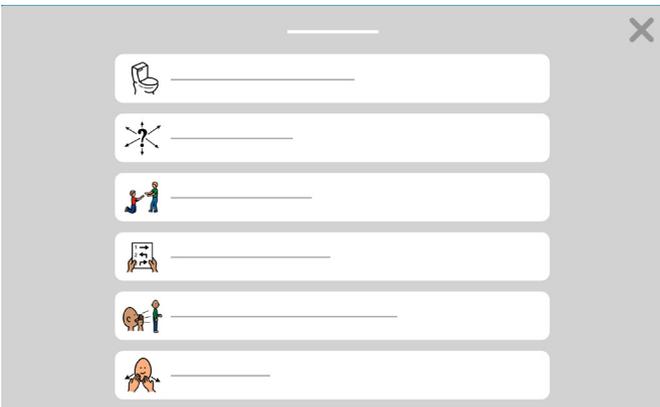
Mini-Schedule

Show the order of a small set of activities.



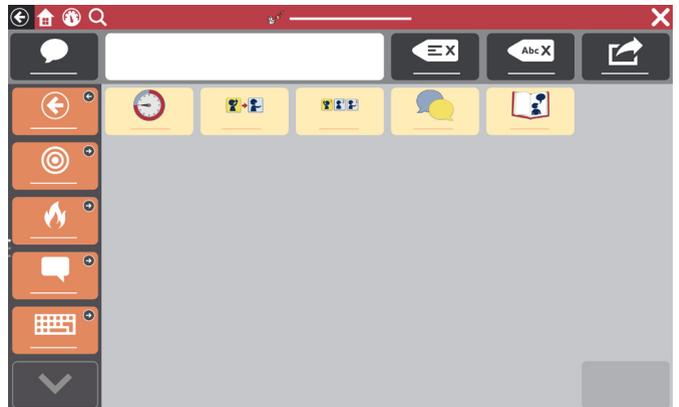
Social Narrative (Script)

Stories that describe a situation and acknowledge how an individual may feel and manage that in positive ways.



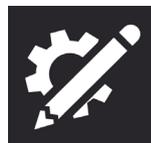
Visual Timer

Shows how much time is left in an activity.



Dashboard

The Dashboard contains device controls, like volume and remotes. You can access it from the toolbar.



Editing Tool

Make changes to the content or settings.

Let's Use It!



On the following pages you'll find some activities to get you started. Choose activities that are motivating and remain engaging. Feel free to repeat activities since repetition supports learning. Remember to use the strategies below to be a good communication partner and create an environment for communication success.



Recognize opportunities

Identify times during the day when an individual can learn and practice communication skills. For example, help them use TD Snap to communicate their choice of snack to eat or movie to watch.



Create a positive communication environment

Adopt these attitudes and strategies that encourage communication.

■ **Assume competence**

"I know you can do this."

■ **Focus on use, not testing**

Instead of saying "Find book." Say "It's reading time. What book should we read?"

■ **Respond to all modes of communication**

Learner: Smiles at you. Partner: "Well, hello to you too!"

■ **Wait**

Partner counts to five before providing help to locate vocabulary.



Model AAC use

Modeling has been proven to be best way to teach people to communicate using AAC. Modeling involves touching and using the device as you talk and interact with the person.

- Modeling is about showing the individual how to communicate.
- It does not require imitation.
- Model key words instead of every word you say.
- Model as you look for vocabulary.
- Mistakes are OK. They give you the chance to model how to correct them.
- Modeling is not quizzing or testing.



Watch a video demonstrating modeling.

qrco.de/bbA7Ur



Look for Success

Communication success is more than the individual communicating what you expect, when you expect it, and how you expect it.

Success may include:

- Increased attention to interactions
- Initiation of communication
- Use of more vocabulary
- Longer interactions
- Greater enjoyment of interactions
- More independence in communication

Don't make these beginner's mistakes!

- You don't need to create something from scratch. We've built the framework. Become familiar with what is in TD Snap Core First and then customize it for the user.
- Don't put too much pressure on yourself or the user.
- Completing every task with accuracy at the beginning is not realistic. It's okay to make mistakes.



Activity: Reading a Book



Materials

- TD Snap Core First Reading Topic
- A Favorite Book

Preparation

Select Topics in the Toolbar. Locate the Reading Topic and review the vocabulary before beginning the activity.



Steps

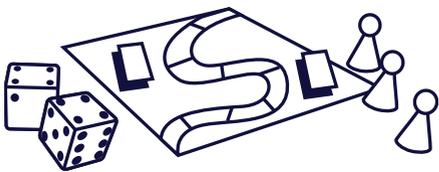
- ➊ Introduce the book and show the cover. Discuss what the book will be about.
- ➋ Read each page and pause at the end to allow communication opportunities.
- ➌ As you read, pause to make comments and ask questions (e.g., What do you think so far? Is it scary? I think the boy was scared.).
- ➍ Once you finish reading the book, don't quiz, instead ask how they felt or what they thought about the story.

Helpful Hints

- If there is a repetitive sentence in the story and you have an empty button on the page, program the sentence onto the button.
- Select the button whenever the repeated sentence appears.
- Messages such as "Turn the page" and "Read it again" are already programmed in your device.
- Comment on everything the child looks at and/or points to in the environment. When finished, reinforce how great they communicated with you.
- Review the book again, focusing on the pictures. Notice the words in the device that match the pictures and model by selecting them.



Activity: Playing a Game



Materials

- TD Snap Core First Games Topic
- A Favorite Board Game or Card Game

Game Ideas

Go Fish, War, Bingo, Memory, Candyland

Preparation

Select Topics in the Toolbar. Locate the Games Topic and review the vocabulary before beginning the activity.



Steps

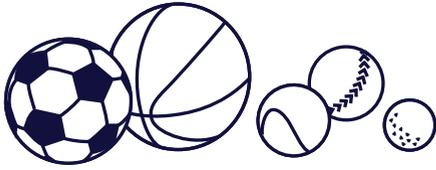
- ➊ Introduce the game and go over the rules if you haven't played before.
- ➋ Begin playing the game using the vocabulary you reviewed.
- ➌ Take breaks to comment on how the game is going.
- ➍ Once the game is done, take time to make comments.

Helpful Hints

- Check the Game Words folder under Topic Words for more vocabulary words.
- Messages such as "My turn", "Play again," and "I don't like this game" are already programmed in your device.
- Have the user keep track of everyone's turn (my turn, your turn) by selecting the appropriate buttons.



Activity: Watching Sports



Materials

- TD Snap Core First Sports Topic
- A Favorite Sporting Event

Preparation

Select Topics in the Toolbar. Locate the Sports Topic and review the vocabulary before beginning the activity.



Steps

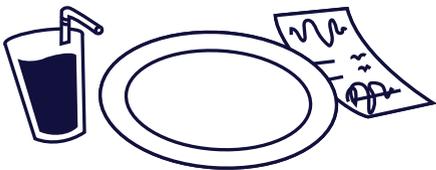
- 1 Introduce the sporting event you are watching and review what teams are playing.
- 2 Demonstrate how to navigate and activate buttons to make fun comments during the game.
- 3 When the activity is over, review any successful communication attempts (e.g., “I really liked how you pointed to the ball to show me you liked it.”).

Helpful Hints

- Use the edit button to add your favorite team to the button that says “Favorite team []”.
- Messages such as “Is there a game today?,” “I love this team,” and “They stink” are already programmed into your device.
- If you have an empty button, program in a fun cheer for your team.



Activity: Going to a Restaurant



Materials

- TD Snap Core First Restaurant Topic
- A Favorite Restaurant

Preparation

Select Topics in the Toolbar. Locate the Restaurant Topic and review the vocabulary before beginning the activity.



Steps

- 1 Discuss going to the restaurant.
- 2 You can start modeling vocabulary before you even get to the restaurant. For example, select the “Let’s go out for dinner” button.
- 3 Once you are at the restaurant, model with the device throughout the meal.
- 4 Once finished with your meal, review any successful communication attempts. (e.g., “When you pressed “more” I knew to pass the rolls!”).

Helpful Hints

- Messages such as “Can we go out to eat?,” and “I love this place” are already programmed into your device.
- Encourage everyone at the table to be involved, including the wait staff.



Using Google Assistant With TD Snap

The Google Assistant pages available in TD Snap are organized by function. The buttons on these pages allow you to manage everyday tasks, play music, ask questions, and even control your home using Google Assistant.

To find Google Assistant pages in TD Snap:

- 1 Select **Dashboard** in the Toolbar.



- 2 Select **Google Assistant**.



The icons indicate the equipment you need to use that button.



No additional hardware required.



Google Nest mini device or Google Assistant-enabled speaker required.



Smart outlet, light bulb, and/or thermostat required.

Tips for Success:

- Playing music very loud may make turning off the music or giving any commands difficult.
- If you don't get the response you expected when sending a Google command, try different wording or be more specific.
Example: If "Ok Google, turn on the light" didn't work, try "Ok Google, turn on the family room light."
- Remember, when using an external Google speaker, you must say "Ok Google" before the command.
- Make sure you have a way to call for help and a backup system for home automation functions.
- Games work best when they don't require specific responses and give ample time to respond.

Common Questions for Google Assistant

Do I need the Google Home app?

Yes, you will need the Google Home app on your phone or tablet if you have purchased additional equipment (e.g. Google Nest Mini, smart plugs, etc.).

Do I need a Google Account?

Yes, you need a free Google Account to use Google Assistant. You must connect your Google account to TD Snap (*Edit > User > Connect to Google*).

Can I listen to music?

Yes, you must use an external Google speaker (e.g. Google Nest Mini, Google Home Nest, etc.), and make sure the device can still be heard over the music.

Can I control lights in my home?

Yes, with the right equipment you can control the lights in your home.

I have a smart appliance in my house. Can I control it with Google Assistant?

Yes. Consult the guide that came with a smart appliance for detailed information.

Can I use Google Assistant for emergency calls?

No. Google Assistant will NOT call Emergency Services.

How do I get support?

For issues with TD Snap software, contact Tobii Dynavox Technical Support.

For issues with smart equipment, go to the manufacturer's website.

Google Support Troubleshooting

qrco.de/GoogleAssistantExplore

qrco.de/GoogleAssistantHelp

qrco.de/GoogleNestHelp



Read the full Google Assistant for TD Snap Guide.

qrco.de/gatdsa

Editing Visual Supports

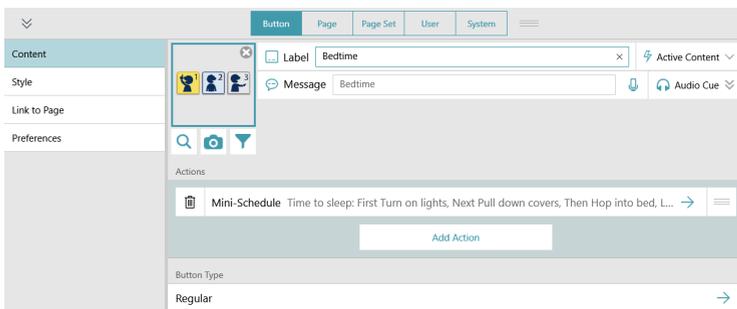
- 1 Find the Supports page that contains the visual support to be edited.



- 2 Select **Edit**.

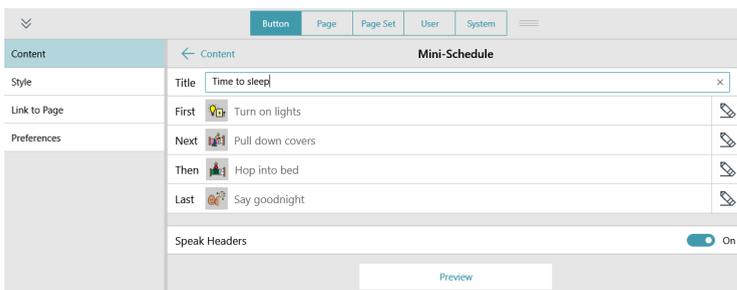


- 3 Select the button for the support to be edited.



- 4 Select the action (Mini-Schedule, Visual Timer, First Then, or Script).

- 5 Select the pencil icon in any row to make changes.



- 6 Select the Preview button at the bottom of the support editing panel to preview your changes to the Visual Support.

- 7 When finished, select **Done**.

Changing Grid Sizes

We recommend prioritizing the user's ability to select buttons accurately. The act of physically accessing the communication device requires practice. Start out with a smaller grid size. As the user becomes accustomed to using the device, they may be able to go to larger grid sizes. Changing the grid size is easy and the TD Snap Core First Page Set is designed to keep vocabulary location consistent across grid sizes.

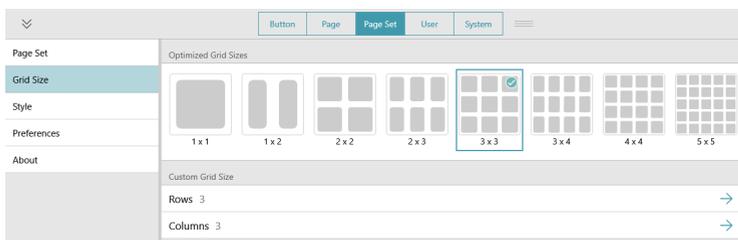
- 1 Select the **Edit** button.



- 2 Select the **Page Set** tab.



- 3 Select **Grid Size**.



- 4 Make a selection from the Optimized Grid Sizes.

- 5 Select **Done**.



Scan this code to see a short video on changing the grid size.

qrco.de/bbA7X9

Core First Learning



Core First Learning is a collection of free, printable resources available for download from the Tobii Dynavox website. These beautifully illustrated materials are designed to support you in teaching the meaning, use, and placement of core words on AAC systems. Each of the core words is supported with five unique lessons designed to be used over the course of a week. You have the flexibility to use the books and lessons in any way that is most supportive.



For printable versions of all the lessons and books scan this code or use the link:

qrco.de/bbA7YY

Additional Support



TD Snap Support Page
qrco.de/SnapHelp



TD Facebook Community
qrco.de/TDFB



North America Technical Support
1-800-344-1778 ext. 1

Learn how to edit buttons, back up and share Page Sets, and use other TD Snap features:



TD Snap Basics Training Cards
qrco.de/bdPliQ



TD Snap User's Manual
qrco.de/bdDScg



Tobii Dynavox Learning Hub
learn.tobiidynavox.com