

## What it is

**Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)** modelling means that you point to words on the AAC tool as you speak. It may also be called Aided Language Stimulation or Aided Language Modelling. When learning a new AAC system, everyone should be modelling, as often as possible! The main benefits are:

- You will become more familiar with the AAC system
- You will help the AAC user to learn a new system
- You and the AAC user will be 'speaking the same language'

## What the research says

AAC modelling can improve the AAC user's communication. It can increase the number and range of words that are produced. It can result in more complex sentences, which makes communication richer and more efficient. Modelling can be done on any AAC system, be it a low-tech board, a touch screen device, or eye gaze.

## What you do

Make sure the AAC user is okay with you touching their AAC system. Then, you can start modelling. You will speak AND touch the system. You speak in full sentences, but you might only touch key words. You should model in all sorts of interactions, from greetings, to requests, to small talk.

Modelling should be fun! The focus is on the communication interaction between you and the AAC user. It's okay to make mistakes while everyone is learning a new system. It can help if you 'think out loud' (e.g., "oh, where is happy... it's a feeling... I'll try the feelings page").

### Contact us if you want to know more

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