



Aided Language Stimulation

What is Aided Language Stimulation?

- An augmentative communication strategy
- "Talking with pictures" - pair your spoken words with pointing to pictures, symbols or photos, or while showing objects
- The communication partners show key items, touch key words on a communication board or show a picture from an AAC tool, while simultaneously saying the words

What is the Rationale?

- Non-speaking children need to be exposed to language at an early age
- Introduces children to symbolic communication - children learn that a picture represents an item
- Allows communication partners to model language in the form that the child is learning to use expressively. This is similar to a child who is learning verbal language - they hear others speaking in the same language that they themselves are expected to use.
- Helps to build language comprehension, as the strategy is used throughout the day in natural contexts. This is especially true of children who are stronger visual learners.

How do I do it?

- Make sure your child is attending to the visual by paying attention to your child's eyes.
- Keep the visual at your child's eye level.
- Model, model, model! Aided language stimulation is about what WE do, not what the child does.
- Provide language input at a slow rate, using single words and short phrases.
- Repeat, repeat, repeat! The more you repeat and show the visual, the more exposure your child will get to the same word/visual.
- Expand on your child's message after your child uses the visual to tell you something. In other words, point to another picture to add to your child's message.