

Aided Language Stimulation

There are several steps that have to happen *before* an individual is expected to use a communication device or overlay expressively.

What is it?

Aided language stimulation is receptive language training: a facilitation technique in which the facilitator highlights symbols on the augmented speaker's overlay as the facilitator interacts and communicates while doing the activity. In other words, the facilitator is modeling the use of a communication overlay before the augmentative speaker is expected to use it. The facilitator can highlight and activate the device only or activate the device and verbalize the word at the same time.

Why is it used?

This modeling process demonstrates to the augmentative speaker how to use the symbols. A secondary benefit is that the facilitator becomes more familiar with the overlay. This is a "dry run" to check out if the vocabulary on the overlay works for the activity. The facilitator learns better how to "set the stage" to create more communication interactions.

How is it used?

1. Use primarily single words (symbols) and short grammatically correct phrases (symbol phrases) to talk about what the child is hearing, seeing, doing, and feeling.
2. Speak slowly, inserting numerous pauses into the conversational flow.
3. Use lots of repetition as you describe ongoing events.
4. Whenever the child indicates something nonverbally, provide the child with the single word (symbol) needed to communicate the exact same intent.
5. Whenever the child indicates something with a single word (symbol), expand that message into a semantically equivalent two-word (symbol) combination.

How long does it take?

A minimum of 3 to 5 sessions (for many individuals it will take longer)

Equipment needed:



Small squeeze
flashlight



easel mount



vest



apron