

## **Expanding Students' Communication with AAC**

We can continue to build our students' language skills and AAC use within our natural interactions.

Responding using modelling on the AAC system to expand on a student's message, can show students the next step towards more complete or specific messages.

- Expand on a student's message by adding one or 2 words to add meaning, or include new or different grammar.
- Whenever possible, model the expanded message using the student's AAC system, not just verbally.

This is not about negatively correcting a student, or requiring them to repeat your expanded message, it's just showing them examples of how they could expand their messages in future.

This strategy can be used with students at a range of language levels.

For example, if a student is using single words we may expand their message by modelling 2 words together which still relate to what they are saying.

If a student says...

You could expand to .... (model underlined words on the AAC system)





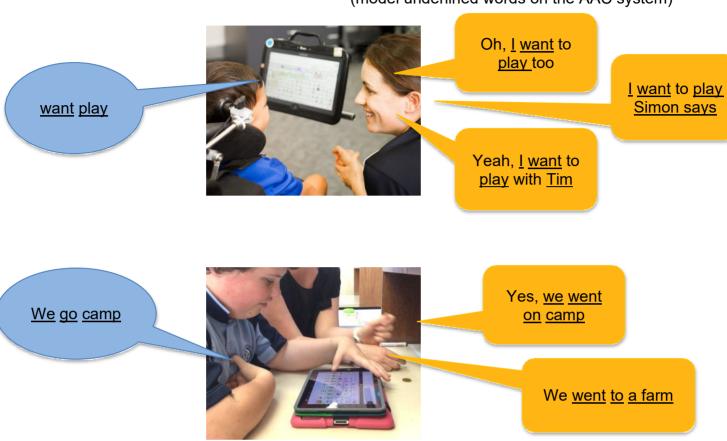
Communication in the Classroom

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As another example, if a student is using short phrases or sentences we may model more complete grammar, correct word order or expand to give more information.

If a student says...

You could expand to .... (model underlined words on the AAC system)



Take a moment to think of some of the messages your students currently use with their AAC system, how could you expand their messages?

Example messages your student uses:	Possible ways to expand on their device:

## Want to read more about expanding language using AAC?

http://praacticalaac.org/praactical/supporting-language-growth-in-aac-learners-part-3/

http://praacticalaac.org/strategy/helping-beginning-communicators-expand-their-sentence-length/

