Using a Symbol Chart

This chart is designed to increase learners' engagement and success with symbols by bringing them into an activity that is motivating and fun. More charts can be found at acecentre.org.uk/resources.

Learners learn how to use symbols by others showing them how it is done. You need to use the chart yourself, pointing to symbols while you talk and interact with the learner. It's great if they begin to point too but don't insist. It can take time ... just keep using it yourself!

Vocabulary

This chart includes words related to the topic as well as core words such as more, stop, like, want. Core words are powerful when used on their own or when put together with topic-related (fringe) words e.g. more tea, like dolly, want book.

As the learner gets going, reinforce learning by repeating what they have communicated and adding an extra symbol. For example, if they point to want and bubbles you can reply by saying "you want more bubbles" while pointing to the symbols want, more and bubbles.

Access

This chart was designed to be used by pointing to the symbols. If the learner finds that difficult it can be used in different ways. Learn how in our free resource Access to Paper-Based Symbol Resources When Pointing is Difficult by following the QR code below:

To learn more follow the QR code for Getting Started with Paper-Based Symbol Resources or go to acecentre.org.uk/ebooks

Practical tips

Laminating the chart will help to protect it. Matte laminator pouches tend to work better as glossy ones can reflect overhead lighting.

Next steps

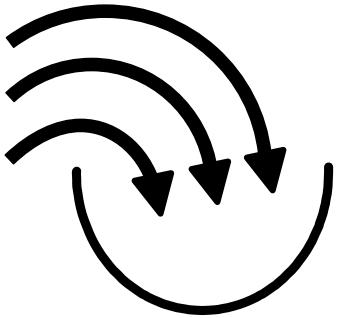
This chart is a first step towards developing a full communication system. Next steps will include developing a communication book with a wide range of core and topic vocabulary. Ace Centre's guide Developing and Using a Communication Book is one approach to consider.

This chart was created using symbol-based software:
Widgit Symbols: In Print3 from www.widgit.com
Picture Communicate Symbols (PCS): Boardmaker 7 from www.tobiidynavox.co.uk

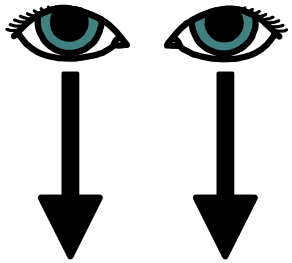
Want to learn more about supporting learners on their AAC journey?
Visit Ace Centre Learning for live and on demand training
acecentre.org.uk/learning

Balloons

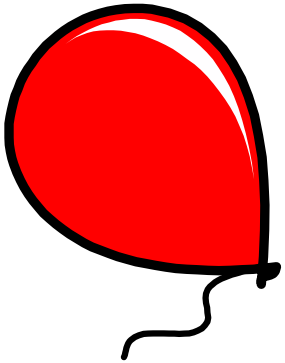
more (again)



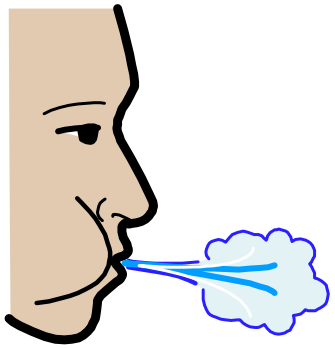
look (see)



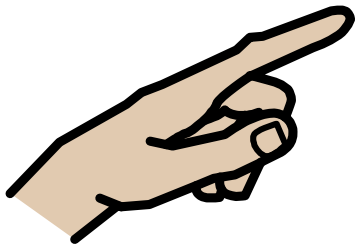
balloons



blow



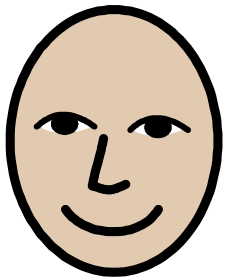
let it go



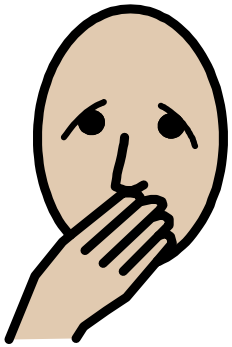
stop (finish)



like



oh no!



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