

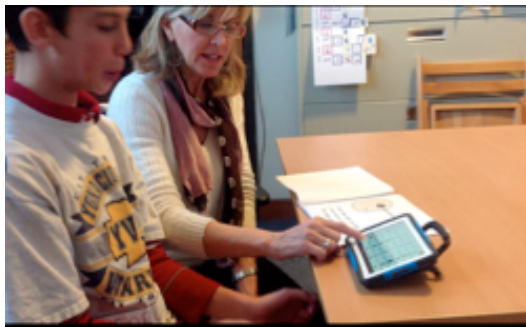
TEACHING METHODS: AIDED LANGUAGE STIMULATION

~description of utilizing modeling strategies for teaching device use~

Aided Language Stimulation (AiLS) is a modeling strategy used to augment both the input and output of the AAC user. AiLS is “the process of providing an aided language model to the student using AAC strategies”. The communication partner uses the visual symbols/language represented on the communicator’s device by highlighting symbols (pointing to and/or activating) as he or she is communicating verbally with the user. For example a communication partner might say, "I like that." while pointing to I + LIKE + THAT on the communication system. (Goossens', Crain & Elder 1992)

When you are using AiLS you are modeling

- Use of symbols to say real things in real situations
- What to say when
- Correct use of grammar
- How to use the device
- Repair strategies (and mistakes!)



How to use AiLS with a communication device (SGD) or system:

1. Make sure the user is attending so that he or she can see the symbols and/or symbol sequences you are modeling.
2. Model 1 or 2 words beyond the child's current language output level.
 - For example, if they were currently using 2 word combinations on their device, then you would model 3-4 word combinations.
3. Model target vocabulary and grammatical structure. Pair the visual model with verbal input, filling in the gaps to ensure the user hears a grammatically correct sentence.
 - For example, a communication partner may ask, "What did you eat for lunch?" The user says, "I + eat + sandwich." The partner then responds, "Oh, you ate a sandwich!" while pointing to symbols on the user’s system (YOU + EAT + SANDWICH)
4. Model at a rate slow enough for the user to follow the symbols and/or symbol sequences.

Goossens', Crain & Elder (1992); *Engineering the preschool environment for interactive, symbolic communication*. Birmingham, AL: Southeast Augmentative Communication Conference Publications.

Burkhart L., Linda Burkhart, Sennott, S., Musselwhite, C., Cafiero, J. *Aided Language Stimulation: Research to Practice*, Paper presented at the Assistive Technology Industry Association Orlando Conference January 2010 Retrieved November 1, 2013

