

# Help Me Talk.

Model, Wait, Use Visuals, Play!

A close-up photograph of a baby's mouth, with a finger inserted into the mouth. The background is dark, and the text is overlaid on the image.

**BY 18 MONTHS  
babies have heard  
4,380 HOURS**

**OF SPOKEN  
LANGUAGE**

**and we don't expect them  
to be fluent speakers**

**YET**

**If AAC learners only see symbols modeled for  
communication twice weekly for 20-30 minutes, it will take**

**84 YEARS**

**for them to have the same exposure to aided language  
as an 18 month old has to spoken language.**

statistic from Jane Korsten - QIAT Listserv 2011

photo by Rachael Langley - AAC Specialist

# Model.

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- Say and show!
- Model verbally, but show the key words on the communication board.
- Don't expect your child to respond or request every time you model. They are taking it all in!
- Try to talk one step above where your child is talking.

Ex: Child is using 2 words, you are modeling 3 words, or adding grammar.

**Child:** I go

**You:** I go there *or* You are going?

WAIT EXPECTANTLY

*Sometimes silence*

IS THE BEST WAY

TO ENCOURAGE

AAC USE.

# Wait.

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- One of the best things you can do is WAIT.
- Give your child time to respond.
- Ask open ended questions (What is that? Where are we? Who is it?)
- Count to 5 in your head while waiting for them to answer. Some students need 10 or even 15 seconds to process and respond.
- Wait quietly.
- Do not over prompt or continuously repeat.
- Respond to all communication attempts, even if they seem silly.

"I'm a visual thinker,  
not a language-based  
thinker. My brain is  
like Google Images."

- Temple Grandin

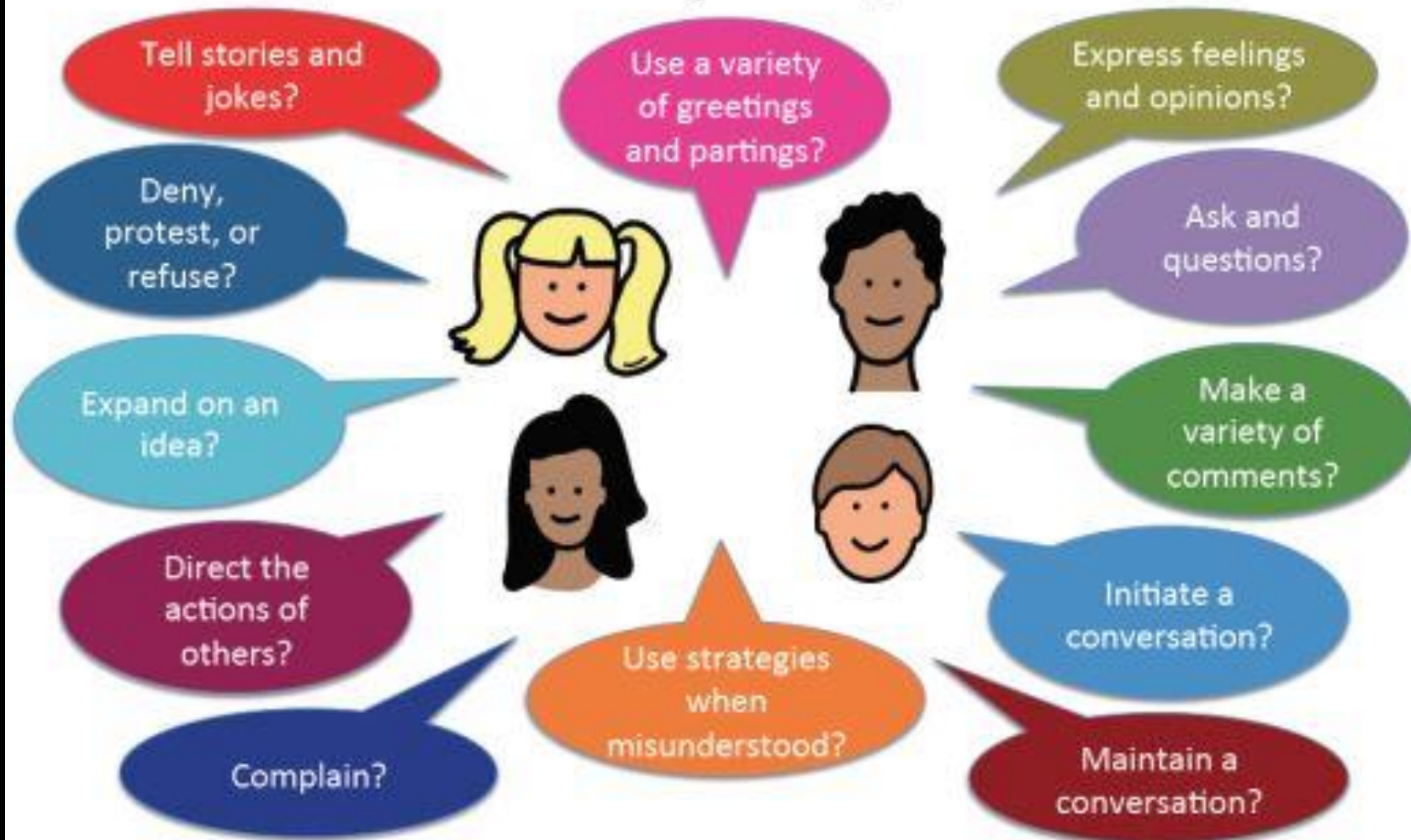
<http://www.thetemplegrandinstore.com>

# Use Visuals.

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- Use the visual board. It gives a visual representation of otherwise abstract language concepts.
- Point to key words as you say them.
- Encourage your child to point as well, but do not make it a requirement all of the time.
- Let the child “babble” with the visual, or with their talker.
- Model as much as possible on the student’s communication board or talker.

# *“Sure, I can request, but can I...?”*



**AAC users need access to COLORFUL language!**



# Play!

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- Language is learned through play!
- While playing, children communicate for the following reasons:
  - ask for things
  - socialize
  - comment
  - ask for help
  - interact with objects
  - draw attention to
- Model words, sentences and phrases during play. Ask questions. Talk about what you are doing. Refuse things. Ask for help. Make characters talk/act things out. Engage your child!

# Hide and Seek

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- Do not look!
- Go.
- I look.
- You look.
- Look up.
- Look down.
- Look in.
- Look out.
- Go fast!
- Go slow.
- I go.
- You go
- Want to play?
- Want to look?
- Help me look!
- There you are!
- Do not talk!
- Look right.
- I get you!
- My turn to look.
- Stop looking.
- Finished playing.
- Find you!
- Find me!

# Legos/Blocks/Building toys.

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- Put on
- Put in
- I like play
- You and me play
- I put up
- Watch it go down!
- Help me.
- I do it.
- You do it.
- Time to finish
- Put it there.
- Put it here.
- Watch me.
- Come play.
- Get off.
- Get out.
- Do you like to play?
- Go get that.
- Go get it.
- Look at it!
- It is big!
- It is little.
- Good work!

# Dress up/play with babies

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- Put on.
- Look me!
- New color.
- Make up.
- I like.
- I do not like.
- She eat.
- He eat.
- My turn.
- You do.
- You put on.
- Put to sleep.
- Go to sleep.
- Get up.
- You drink.
- Do you like it?
- I love you!
- Do you want to play?
- I hear it!
- Do not eat!
- Sit down.
- Are you helping?
- What do you want?
- That is mine.

# Breakfast/Dinner/Snack/Cooking

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- I eat.
- You eat.
- I like it.
- Do not like it.
- No more.
- Yes please.
- I make it.
- You do it.
- Put some in.
- Go get that.
- Help do it.
- I finished.
- Do not eat fast!
- Eat slow.
- I said stop!
- I love you.
- What are we eating?
- Sit down.
- I want to get up.
- I have some!
- That is mine!
- I want big.
- I want a little.
- It is good! (bad)