



Aided Language Input/Stimulation

Language Modeling is also known as **Aided Language Input** or **Aided Language Stimulation**. It is a research-based strategy to help build a strong foundation for AAC use as well as language learning.

It is a communication strategy, where an educator or communication partner teaches symbol meaning and models language by combining his or her own verbal input with selection of vocabulary on the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) system or visual support. This is done by simultaneously selecting vocabulary on the AAC system or visual support and speaking.

Essentially, it means speak the way the learner needs to speak. Hearing or seeing a new language is an essential prerequisite to learning. For example, when learning French or Spanish, we need to hear it and have opportunity to practice. Or as with sign language, we need to see it and practice. The same reasoning occurs with AAC. If we want our students to use a device or strategy, they must see it being used and have exposure and opportunity to practice. This strategy is good for all language learners as they develop vocabulary and language skills with a visual cue and can learn the association with the symbolic meaning and the spoken word.

How to do it:



Reasons for using this strategy:

- It provides learning opportunities for the person using AAC, visual supports or learning language. Typically developing children need to hear a word and language many times prior to using the word. This is the same for any form of communication.
- It helps everyone become familiar with the device or visual support. Helps with knowing locations of words as well as knowing what might be missing.
- **Everyone can do this.**
- **Everyone can benefit.**
- It is motivating. It includes the AAC user and encourages everyone to use the system further.
- It can help find flaws in the system
- Research indicates that this form of modeling is the most effective manner in which to support a student in using any communication system including speech.
- It can be done everywhere. No special equipment needed. Classroom, playground, restaurant, kitchen. Once you start to learn the person's AAC system or the visual support, this is a highly portable strategy that you can implement with no preparation.
- Comprehension and communication on the AAC system are promoted through modeled use of visual icons/graphic symbol and providing the corresponding verbal label. Learners are prompted to use symbols to communicate within context of motivating, frequently occurring routines by incorporation of time delays, sabotage of routines, and/or the use of verbal cues. Prompts are faded as the AAC user gains proficiency