



Using Core Vocabulary to Support Non Verbal Students

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...a little about Spotsylvania



32 schools
Approx 3,000 SPED students
Approx. 100 nonverbal students

...the truth about teachers



Teachers are stressed
There are many demands on their time
Turnover is sometimes high
Training in AAC is minimal

...ditto to the SLPs



SLPs are stressed
They have high case loads
Turnover is high
Training in AAC is minimal

...the truth about the curriculum



Emphasis on academic skills has
made it increasingly difficult for
teachers to provide functional
communication training.

Question to consider:



How can we supply nonverbal
students with high quality
communication and language
supports that grow and move with
the student?

POLL TIME!

Do you have a guiding concept for providing vocabulary to non-verbal students regardless of the AAC device they are using?

Use the chat box for Questions and Comments

Part 1: Introducing... Core!
What is it and why use it?





Communication In The School As We Know It


PECS Books	BigMacks	8 message communicators
	1 \$8,000 device	...and Requests for iPad!
Protoqua 2Go!		1 bathroom symbol
	Lots of nouns	No idea of how to expand on success...
No money to buy devices		No time to train
		No carry over when kids change schools or grade levels
1 verb (want)		Lots of pictures of food
Lots of pictures of academic vocabulary		Lots of pictures of colors
		Few pronouns, articles, demonstratives or adverbs



Beyond the Holy Trinity of AAC


Eat.....  eat


Drink.....  drink


Bathroom..... 

Let's give 'em something to talk about.....

Brown's Stages: Vocabulary most often provided:

Brown's Stage 1 = MLU of 1.75 → 

Brown's Stage 3 = MLU of 2.25 → 

Brown's Stage 5 = MLU of 4.0 → 

and the Big Question is....

If a student has a language age of 4 and a receptive vocabulary of 1,000 words,

Will a book of nouns be enough?

How about a cheap talk with 8 choices?

NO!

What is Core Vocabulary?

The term core vocabulary is used to describe words which are used frequently and across contexts.

Core words are those that are basic to the language and are without the shadings of culture and context.

Core vocabulary tends to be made up of verbs, demonstratives, and pronouns because these words are a small set of words that are unchanging in our language.

We all use core vocabulary, all the time, every day, in every environment.

80% of all that we say is made up of 100-200 basic core words.

Lists of core words are used when compiling textbooks, for teaching English as a second language and for facilitating international communication.

* If you want to be understood by everyone in a room, use a core word!

Baker, Bruce (2000)

Core is made up of simple words that are easily understood

I love his humor!

I enjoy his extreme jocularity!

Your words will mean war!

That opinion will cause fistcufffs!

He thinks with vision!

He cerebrates with great perspicacity!



Core is made up of neutral words unshaded by culture or context

Core
(Have General Meaning)

Not - So - Core
(Have Specific Meaning)

Give
Big
Little
Eat
House

Donate
Huge
Tiny
Dine
Home



Core Have General Meaning	Not - So - Core Specific Meaning
------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Give	Donate
I give a car.	I donate a car.
I give a backrub.	I donate a backrub?
I give a party.	I donate a party?
I give you my word!	I donate you my word?
I will give it a good try...	I will donate a good try?



Examples of Core Words

Benajee List
Top Words Used By Toddlers

A	It	Some
All done/finished	Mine	That
Go	More	The
Help	My	want
Here	no	What
I	Off	yes/yea
In	On	you
Is	out	

(Benajee, et al., 2003)



Quote:

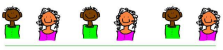
Despite evidence that nouns are not among core vocabulary used by preschoolers... clinicians typically select nouns representing foods and objects as first symbols when designing AAC systems.

(Banajee, et. al., 2003)

Composite List of 347 Core Words
Compared with "Cat in the Hat" (139/290)

a	break	eight	got	I've	morning	people	some	thirty	well
about	but	either	gotta	job	much	person	this	went	were
actually	buy	eleven	had	just	my	phone	those	were	were
after	by	else	half	kepp	must	pick	sorry	though	we're
afternoon	came	end	happened	kids	my	place	sort	thought	we've
again	can	enough	hard	know	name	play	start	three	what
ago	can't	er	has	last	need	pretty	started	through	what's
ah	car	even	have	left	never	probably	still	til	when
all	car	ever	haven't	like	new	put	straight	time	where
alright	Catholic	every	having	little	next	quite	street	times	which
always	case	everyone	he	live	nice	ready	stuff	to	who
and	close	everything	her	long	night	really	sure	today	who's
another	cold	cy	here	look	no	remember	lake	told	why
any	come	fair	he'll	looking	not	right	talk	tomorrow	will
anything	could	find	he's	looks	now	road	talking	tea	with
anyway	couldn't	finished	his	lost	of	said	teal	trying	won't
are	couple	first	home	love	off	same	ten	twelve	work
around	crew	five	hour	lovely	on	Saturday	than	twenty	working
as	day	for	hours	lunch	ok	say	thanks	two	would
ask	days	Friday	how	make	on	says	that's	up	wouldn't
at	dear	four	house	made	old	saying	that	um	wouldn't
away	did	from	hundred	many	once	school	the	us	wrong
back	didn't	get	I	mean	one	see	their	used	yeah
bad	differe	gets	ir	married	one	seen	them	very	years
be	t	getting	me	only	seven	seven	then	want	yep
beautiful	do	give	into	might	or	she	there	wanted	yes
because	does	go	is	mind	either	she'll	there's	wants	yesterday
been	doesn't	god	isn't	mile	our	she's	these	was	you
before	doing	gives	it	minutes	out	she's	there's	wasn't	your
being	dollars	going	its	mm	over	shoes	they're	way	you're
better	don't	one	it's	Monday	own	should	they've	we	you've
big	down	gonna	I'd	money	o'clock	sit	thing	week	week
bit	down	good	I'll	months	past	six	things	weekend	weekend
bloody	dunno	good	I'll	more	pay	so	think	weeks	weeks
cat	eat								

(Comparison made by Chip Clark using the MealTime Vocabulary List by Susan Balardin and Terese Facomo, 2000)



"Cat in the Hat" has roughly 53 Fringe words vs 237 Core.

CORE = 82%

(Chip Clarke, MS CCC/SLP, Assistive Technology Works, Inc)

What is Fringe Vocabulary?

Fringe vocabulary is made up of context specific nouns and verbs that are needed depending on context.

Fringe vocabulary needs vary from person to person and from place to place.

Permanent Fringe is vocabulary that is an important part of a person's life and will be used often.

Temporary fringe is vocabulary that is very situationally specific and infrequently used.

Permanent Fringe (Big Part of Life)	Temporary Fringe (Hardly Ever Used)
food	Saturn
car	planet
animal	orbit
person	solar system
house	atmosphere

(Chip Clarke, MS CCC/SLP, Assistive Technology Works, Inc)

Let's look at the word:

ZOO

It could be a permanent fringe word if you are a veterinarian.

It could be a temporary fringe word if you are a kid on a field trip.

If you want to tell your mom where you went today, zoo is the word that carries the most meaning:

I went to the Zoo.

Fringe Vocabulary Carries Meaning

...But you can't have every word or the system gets too complex and difficult to navigate.

How do you say "I went to the zoo" without using the word "zoo"?

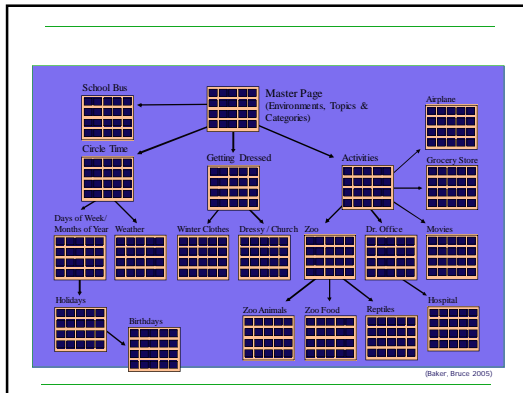
Hint: Core possibilities = I go see want big many more stop
Permanent Fringe = animal, bus, school

I go bus see many big animal

I go bus see animal animal animal go bus.

The Point is: Use Fringe Sparingly

Or... you might end up with THIS:



Quick Summary

Core is a small set of words that don't change.

Most of the words we use are core words.

We use them all the time in every situation.

Fringe words carry meaning

They are context specific

Use them wisely.

POLL TIME

Do you feel like you understand the basic concepts of core vocabulary vs. fringe vocabulary?

Use the chat box for Questions and Comments
