

R.E.A.L. Talk

5 Ways to Support Your Emergent Communicator

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Down Syndrome Connection of Northwest Arkansas
Nothing Down About It Conference
March 7, 2020

A bit about me!

- Fayetteville High School Graduate and Razorback alumni
- Arizona State University
- Speech-Language Pathologist
 - AAC Program Director, Children's Therapy TEAM
- Previously worked in a variety of pediatric settings
- Active community volunteer



Course Topics and Learner Objectives

- Participants will be able to describe how supporting a child's **active participation in daily routines** helps build language and increases their understanding of the world.
- Participants will understand and be able to use the key partner strategies of **expansion and modeling**.
- Participants will learn what **augmentative and alternative communication** is and its role in supporting communication development.
- Participants will be able to describe how to increase exposure to **literacy** in order to support their child's language development.

What challenges do we face?



- Oral motor and feeding
- Articulation
- Receptive Language
 - Listening
 - Reading
- Expressive Language
 - Speaking
 - Writing
- Social skills

Let's get real
for a moment.



R.E.A.L. Talk

Routine

Expand and Model

Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Literacy

Talk

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Think big...and small

routine

[rōō' tēn] 

NOUN

1. a sequence of actions regularly followed; a fixed program.
"I settled down into a routine of work and sleep" · [more]

synonyms: procedure · practice · pattern · drill · regime · regimen · groove · program · [more]



Routines...

...help children feel safe and secure.

...make difficult transitions easier.

...foster independence and responsibility.

...help caregivers predict and plan for possible difficult tasks or emotional/behavioral issues.

What does this have to do with communication development?!

SCHEMA!



Jean Piaget

Schema

- Basic framework for knowledge
- Building blocks for cognitive development
- Organize past experiences -> framework for future



As experiences happen, new schemas develop and existing ones are modified to account for new learning.

REAL Talk: How can we use routines support language development?

- Practice, practice, practice!
- Development of schema
- Scaffolding



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Modeling

An example of what we would like the individual to do.

Yes, but ...how?



Self Talk and Parallel Talk

Self-Talk - Talk about what YOU are doing, seeing, hearing, feeling

Parallel Talk - Narrate what the CHILD is doing, seeing, hearing, feeling

Let's practice!



Expansion

The process in which an adult *expands* what the child says into a more complete sentence.



Let's practice!



R.E.A.L. Talk

Routine

Expand and Model

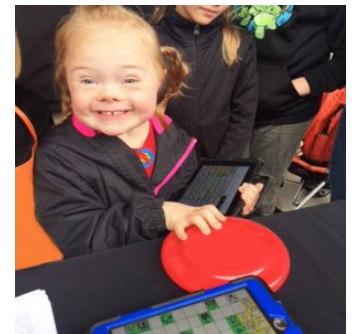
Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Literacy

Talk

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

- Methods of communication that are used to supplement or replace verbal or written communication
- A system



What does AAC look like?



Debunking myths

Myth	Fact
AAC will impede verbal speech development.	Studies show AAC does not hinder verbal speech and can increase speech production (Miller, 2006; Schlosser & Wendt, 2008).
AAC is not needed if an individual has some speech or if they are able to get their needs met.	Communication is multi-modal; AAC can allow users to clarify or expand on utterances beyond what they may be able to produce intelligibly, especially when context and familiar listeners are unavailable (Beukelman & Mirenda, 2005).
An individual can be too cognitively impaired to benefit from AAC.	There is no evidence to support this view; AAC may support cognitive-linguistic development (de Almeida Barbosa et al. 2018)
AAC is a last resort.	AAC can support early communication development. (Ronski & Sevcik, 2005; Kasari et al, 2014).

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Augmentative and Alternative Communication

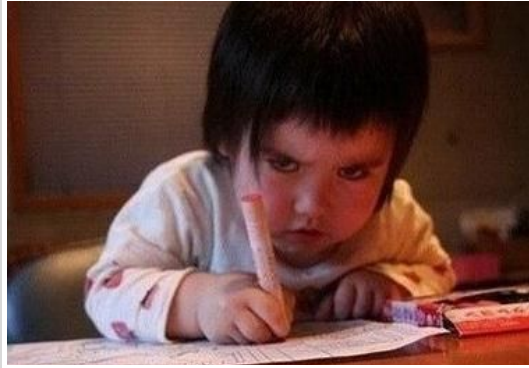
Literacy

Talk

Literacy

More adult reading = Better child language skills

**REAL Talk:
What if my
child isn't
interested in
literacy?**



**Make literacy
part of your
routine!**

- Involve your child in the literacy activities that are already part of your day
- Set aside time in your daily schedule for reading/writing



Provide a variety of materials



Reading	Writing
Board books Flap books/interactive books Electronic books Family photo books Magazines Catalogs To go menus Mail	Pens/pencils Markers Crayons Letter stamps/stickers Cut out letters Keyboard Cookie cutters Puzzles

Read and write their way

Make it fun

Incorporate literacy into preferred activities

Be flexible

Be silly



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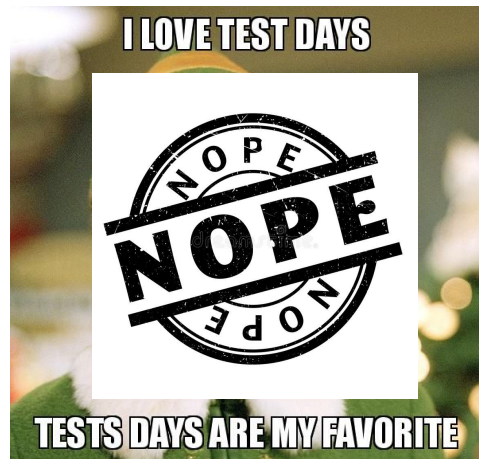
Talk! Talk! Talk!

More adult words spoken = Larger
child vocabulary

(Hoff, 2006)

Inspire, don't require

- Ask open-ended questions
- Provide choices
- No quizzing!
- Keep it authentic



Be colorful!

- Use a variety of word types
 - Nouns
 - Verbs
 - Describing words
- Use interesting vocabulary
- Be unpredictable. Change it up!





R.E.A.L. Talk: Communication is about connection.

Questions?

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