# **AAC BOOT CAMP**

Getting AAC Users COMMUNICATING  
regardless of AAC system used (no tech, low tech, high tech) or skill level...

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DO this… | DON’T do this… |
| MODEL MODEL MODEL  model expected communication behaviors  BEFORE expecting to see those behaviors from the user | DON’T expect a user to know how to communicate without direct models & instruction. |
| PRESUME COMPETENCE | DON’T do ALL the talking |
| FOLLOW prompt hierarchy | DON’T over-prompt |
| TEACH language functions including directing, commenting, requesting assistance, etc. | DON’T teach ONLY requesting |
| WAIT 10-20 sec. (w/an expectant look) before re-prompting! Count in your head 1,2,3 | DON’T re-prompt too quickly |
| PROVIDE CORE WORDS including verbs & describing words (in addition to nouns) | DON’T provide ONLY nouns |
| COLOR CODE parts of speech | DON’T focus on vocabulary that won’t be functional/used tomorrow |
| KEEP icon placement constant keep repeated icons in the same location on each page/screen | DON’T remove the device |
| ALLOW user time to explore and learn the system | DON’T move symbols |
| MAKE ACC available at all times | DON’T stop all “babbling” (exploring, button pressing) |
| PROVIDE Aided Language Input | DON’T keep the ACC system in their desk, cubbie, or backpack |
| ASK open-ended question | DON’T expect sentences right away |

Created by Lauren Enders with content by Lauren Enders, Pat Mervine, Melissa Skocypec & Cathie VanAlstine - February 2013