

## Aided Language Stimulation: How to Model Use of a Speech-Generating Device

### Learning Language

- Typically developing children hear words before they can talk and learn to say words as they develop
- Children who are unable to speak functionally hear the same verbal models but are unable to produce speech – augmentative systems that we may use are often symbol and/or word based
- We need to model the use of the symbols and show them how to communicate using the symbols – we do this by using Aided Language Stimulation (ALS)

### Aided Language Made Simple

- The communication partner models language using the symbols on the child's device/display at a slow enough rate for the child to observe vocabulary selection
- This happens as the communication partner is speaking and interacting with the child
- It takes practice!

### Why use Aided Language Stimulation?

- Typically developing children have hundreds or even thousands of verbal models for words that they learn to say, understand and use correctly
- Children using a Speech Generating Device (SGD) need models of their language system before they can use them correctly too

### ALS Assumes...

Augmentative and alternate communication (AAC) users learn language the same way typical children use language – through natural interaction in a language immersion environment.

- Modeling is done using an AAC system that has enough generative language vocabulary to be able to say what you want to say, when you want to say it.
- You are Modeling Language in Natural Contexts – All the Time – Language is Not an Activity
- You are not just/or only Performing a Script – Communication Is Messy!

### What to Model using ALS

- Sentence structure
- Social communication
- Operational and functional use of the system for communication – think of competency!
- Mistakes and repair strategies
- Ideas of what to say, when (showing a broad range of functions of communication)