

Choosing Targets to Model on your Speech Generating Device

1. Create a list of messages that your child is communicating to you non-verbally. Make a list of things your child attempts to say, or would say if they were able to.

2. Narrow these things down to 10 target words that you think would be the most
a) motivating and b) would be used in a variety of different situations.

Your targets may include:

Verbs (action words)

Nouns (people, places, things)

Pronouns (people words, such as 'my', 'me', 'mine')

Prepositions (ex. Up, down, in, on)

Adjectives (describing words such as 'hot', 'big', 'yucky')

3. During daily activities, try to find opportunities to model target words using aided language stimulation. Focus on modelling without the expectation that your child will say them. If your child is trying to send you a message other than one of the target messages, interpret the message using the guidelines for message length recommended by your SLP.
4. Expand- When your child begins to use the target word, repeat the message (verbally and/or on the device) and add one or two words to it.

Based on Hanen Target Word Program