



# Expanding Students' Communication with AAC

We can continue to build our students' language skills and AAC use within our natural interactions.

Responding using modelling on the AAC system to expand on a student's message, can show students the next step towards more complete or specific messages.

- Expand on a student's message by adding one or 2 words to add meaning, or include new or different grammar.
- Whenever possible, model the expanded message using the student's AAC system, not just verbally.

This is not about negatively correcting a student, or requiring them to repeat your expanded message, it's just showing them examples of how they could expand their messages in future.

This strategy can be used with students at a range of language levels.

For example, if a student is using single words we may expand their message by modelling 2 words together which still relate to what they are saying.

If a student says...

You could expand to ....  
(model underlined words on the AAC system)

blocks

Let's play blocks

More blocks

Blocks are fun

As another example, if a student is using short phrases or sentences we may model more complete grammar, correct word order or expand to give more information.

If a student says...

You could expand to ....  
(model underlined words on the AAC system)

want play



Oh, I want to play too

I want to play Simon says

Yeah, I want to play with Tim

We go camp



Yes, we went on camp

We went to a farm

Take a moment to think of some of the messages your students currently use with their AAC system, how could you expand their messages?

Example messages your student uses:	Possible ways to expand on their device:

**Want to read more about expanding language using AAC?**

<http://praacticalaac.org/praactical/supporting-language-growth-in-aac-learners-part-3/>

<http://praacticalaac.org/strategy/helping-beginning-communicators-expand-their-sentence-length/>