

Using Core Boards to Support Communication



Core boards can support children to communicate for lots of different reasons including requesting, commenting, instructing, questioning and sharing opinions.

Top tips:

Model how to use the board. This will help your child learn how to use it themselves. Imagine learning a new language – you would need to hear the words used in many different ways before you could use them yourself. Don't worry if it takes you time to learn how to use the board too. The more you use it, the more quickly you'll be able to find the different symbols!

Point to symbols and say the words. You can use single words (e.g. more, help, stop, again) or short phrases / sentences (e.g. turn the page, it's not working, where should we go?)

Don't worry if there isn't a symbol for the exact word you want to say. You can model phrases pointing to the functional words / symbols and adding in other words e.g. "I want cheese!" You could also use the same symbols in different contexts e.g. 'not' could be used for "not working – broken" or "I do not like it!"

You could start with trying to encourage **fast, fun and easy messages** e.g. "go" in a car race or "more" to request more of something you child likes.

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

Core boards can be used across lots of different play, learning, and routine activities.

Select activities that your child will find fun and motivating. Think about the different words or phrases you could use in an activity! Here are some examples:

Go!

Stop!

Here!

A tickling game

My turn!

More!

I like it!

Again!

**Turn the
page**

Sharing a book

**Where are
they going?**

I see a lion!

**I want a
different**