

## AAC Core Vocabulary Board for Speech & Language Board

Here's a **simple, practical, and child-friendly manual** for the **AAC Core Vocabulary Board**. This tool helps children with speech and language delays (**due to any special condition like autism, Down syndrome, developmental delay, cerebral palsy, or other needs**) communicate their basic wants, needs, and ideas using pictures and words.

AAC stands for **Augmentative and Alternative Communication**. A core vocabulary board uses high-frequency words (the most useful ones that appear in everyday talk) with clear pictures. These words help the child build sentences and express themselves even if speaking is difficult.



### Why Core Vocabulary Board Helps Children with Delays

- Most children (and adults) use only **300–400 words** for 80% of daily communication. Core words like **want, more, help, stop, go, yes, no, eat, drink** are powerful.
- It reduces frustration when the child cannot speak clearly.
- It supports language development — the child sees, hears, and uses the word at the same time.
- It works for **any special condition** causing speech delay. The board gives a visual voice.
- It builds confidence and encourages interaction with parents, siblings, teachers, and friends.

### How to Make or Use a Simple Low-Tech AAC Core Vocabulary Board

You can print a ready board or make one easily at home:

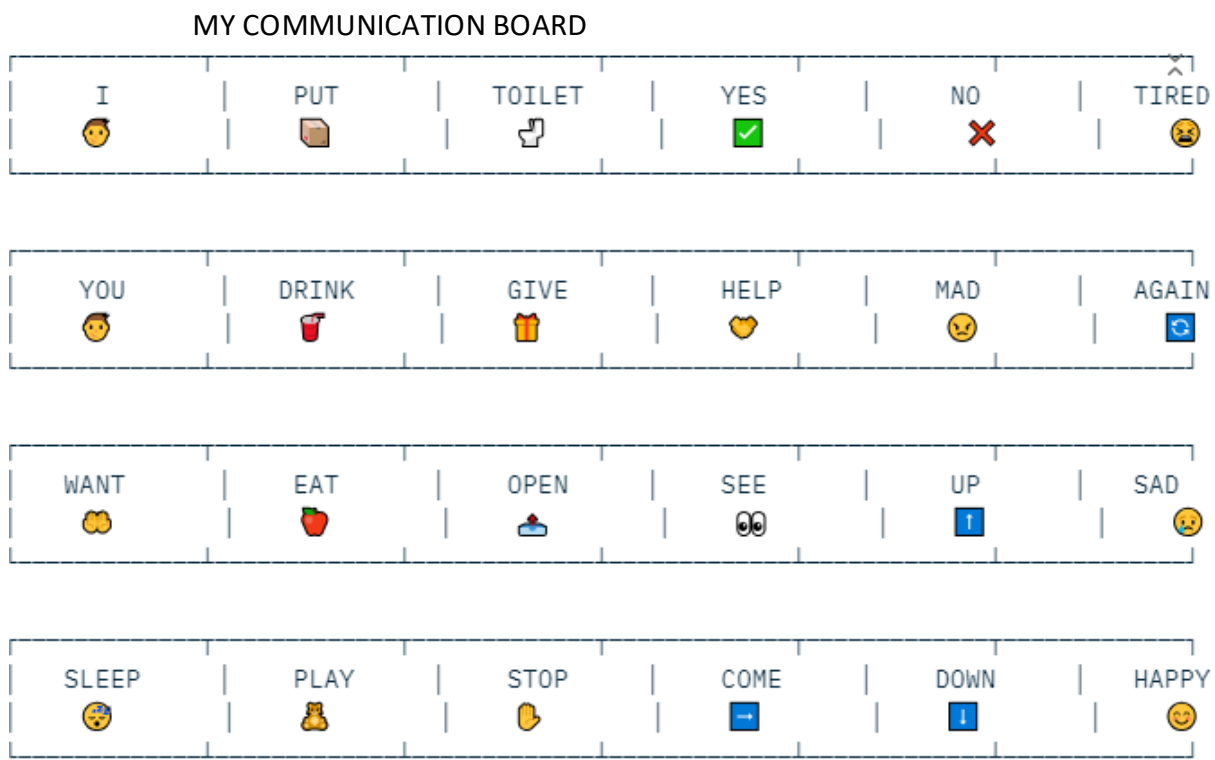
**Materials needed:**

- A4 or larger paper / cardboard
- Clear pictures with bold words below them (use symbols like PCS, Symbol Styx, or simple drawings)
- Laminate the board (or put in a clear plastic sleeve) for durability
- Velcro dots if you want to make movable pieces

**Basic Starter Core Words** (Begin with 10–20 words, then add more):

- **Yes / No**
- **Want / More**
- **Help / Stop**
- **Go / Come**
- **Eat / Drink**
- **Play / Look**
- **Up / Down**
- **All done / Again**
- **I / You**
- **Happy / Sad**

Here are clear examples of ready-to-use style boards:



### How to Teach and Use the Board Every Day (Easy Steps for Parents & Teachers)

1. **Model** — Always point to the picture on the board while you speak. Example: “You **want** more juice?” (Point to “want” + “more”).

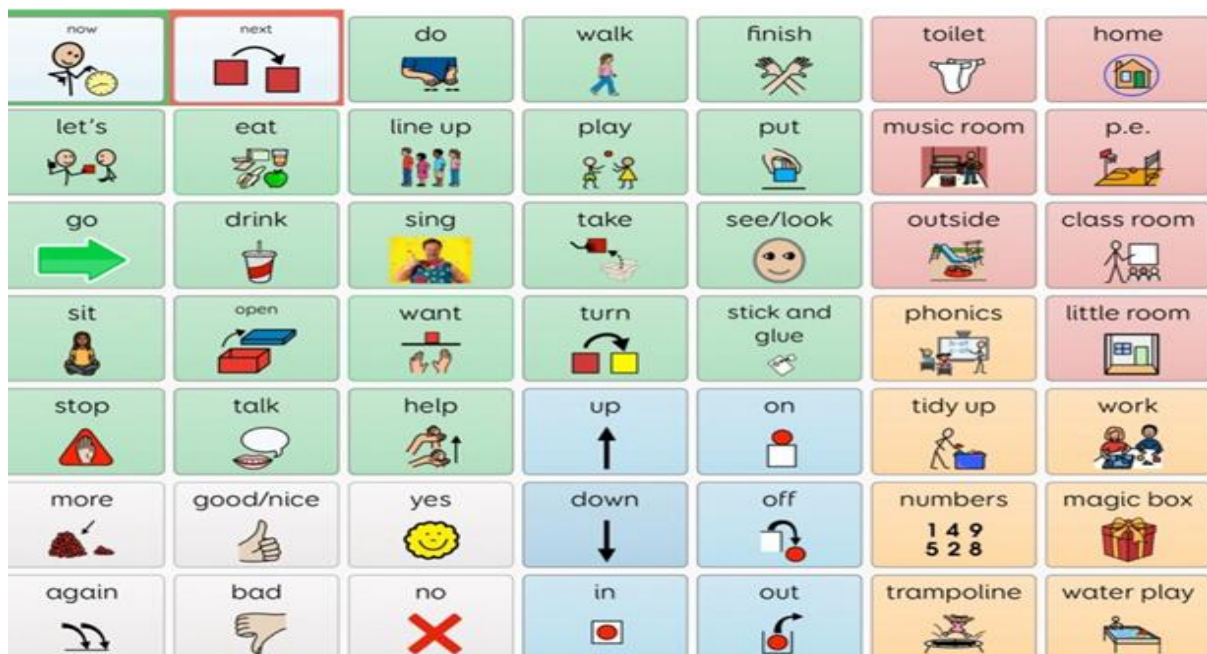
2. **Start small** — Use only 6–9 words at first. Add new ones when the child is comfortable.
3. **Make it part of routine** — Use during snack time (eat, drink, more), play time (play, want, help), bedtime, etc.
4. **Wait and give time** — Give the child time to point or touch the picture. Don't rush.
5. **Expand** — when the child points to “want”, you say “You want ball?” and help them add another word.
6. **Praise every try** — “Great job telling me you want more!
7. **Use across settings** — Keep a copy at home, school, and in the bag.

## Daily Routine Ideas with the Board

- **Snack/Meal time:** Point to **eat, drink, more, all done**
- **Play time:** **play, want, help, up, down**
- **When upset:** **help, stop, sad, happy**
- **Going out:** **go, come, outside, home**

## Important Tips for Success

- Be consistent — use the board every day.
- Everyone in the family and school should model using it.
- Combine with speech therapy if possible.
- As the child improves, you can move to more words or a bigger board / tablet app.
- Never take away the board as punishment.
- Celebrate small successes — even pointing to one word is a big win!



## Quick Starter Template You Can Draw or Print

## **My Communication Board**

Arrange in a grid:

- Top row: **I • You • Want • More • Help**
- Second row: **Eat • Drink • Play • Stop • Go**
- Third row: **Yes • No • All done • Again • Look**
- Bottom: Feelings — **Happy • Sad**

Add your child's photo or name at the top to make it personal.

You are giving your child a powerful tool to express themselves. Many children with delays show huge improvements in communication, behaviour, and confidence once they have a reliable way to be heard. It is also very important to give time in any activity so go for that and achieve your goal.