

## Using a Communication Board

### Why?

- The symbols on the left are always in the same place. This means that the child can learn the order or location of the core symbols which helps them remember the meaning/access what to say.
- The boards use a range of different words including naming words, actions and descriptions so you can more easily chat together.
- The board usually reads from left to right, mimicking how we read.

### When?

You can get the Communication Board out whenever an activity is happening.

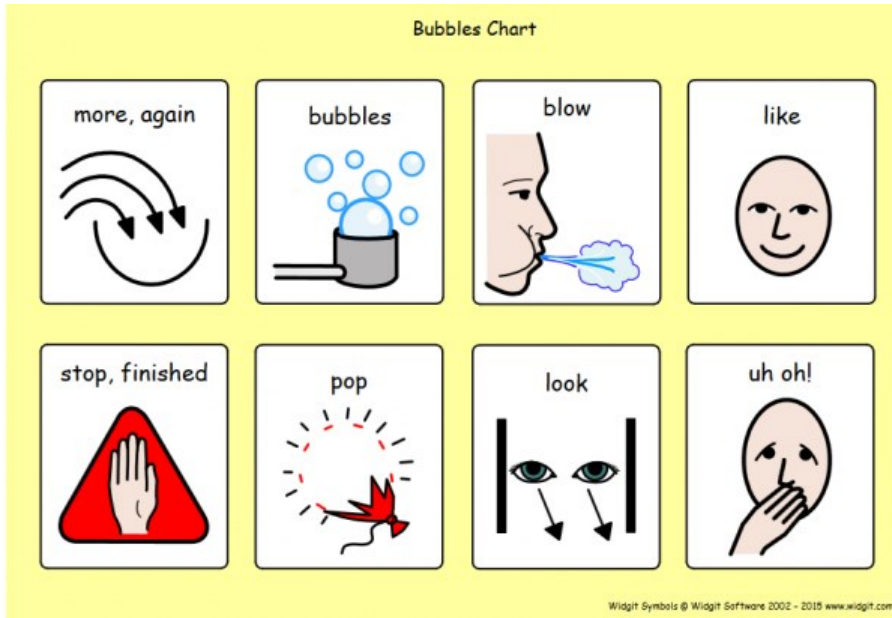
Provide the child with a choice of activities (e.g. bubbles or building) then place the board in front of them that matches their choice e.g. child chooses bubbles, place the 'bubbles' board on the table/floor.

Do not expect the child to use the symbol board straight away... but keep using it yourself!

### How?

- **Demonstrate** how to use the Communication Board by using it yourself when speaking to the child.
- **Point** at the symbol as you **say** the word written underneath.
- To say phrases with more than one word, read across the board from left to right. Try using a range of different words. Remember that your child needs your help to understand what the symbols mean to start with.
- Use the communication board to **comment** or ask questions back to the child. You can do this by pointing straight to a symbol and saying the word/phrase written on it.
- To break it down into more manageable chunks, take a look at our 'core word of the week' handouts, available on our website within the 'AAC' section.

Have a go yourself...

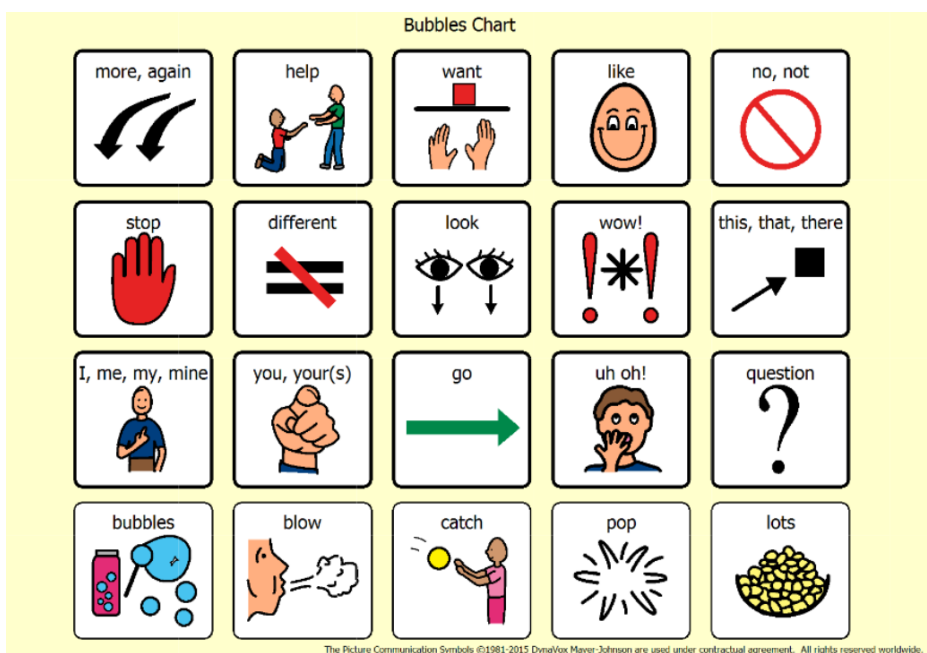


(8 symbols on the page)

Symbol boards can be downloaded for free for lots of games at <https://acecentre.org/resources>

Here are some ideas of how to model language using bubbles:

- Adult says 'ready, steady...' and points to 'go!' as they say 'go' and blows the bubbles.
- The bubbles don't work, adult models **uh oh!**
- Child is popping bubbles, adult says 'pop pop pop' and points to the **pop** symbol



(20 symbols on the page)

Try linking symbols together as you talk e.g. '**more bubbles**', '**want help**', '**catch bubbles**', '**I like**'

Adult takes turns with bubbles, modelling '**me**' and '**you**' when swapping turns