

Working on stage 4 of a Communication Book:

What is the child trying to learn?

- To become independent in having the book available to use across daily situations.
- To use symbols to communicate 3-6 ideas (e.g I went zoo saw lion).
- To begin to negotiate (e.g if rains go inside).
- To develop questioning skills (e.g why he sad).
- To begin to reason (sad because fall down).
- To use past and present symbols.
- To move between two pages during communication.
- To begin to choose extra vocabulary independently.
- To begin to use the book as part of a total communication system (e.g using speech, sign, gesture, symbols to communicate).

How can I help?

- Prompt the child to find the book and use tabs to find their chosen topic page. Familiarise yourself with the extended core vocabulary and question symbols.
- Explore extended section of describing words which have been moved from the core section to their own section.
- Introduce and practise reasoning using the “because” symbol (e.g while pointing to go, home/classroom, because, rain symbols say “let’s go inside because it’s raining”).
- Introduce and practise negotiation using the “if” symbol (e.g while pointing to if, you, finish, you, go, playground symbols and say “If you finish this, you can go to the playground”).
- Introduce and practise extended questions (e.g while pointing to where, your, bag symbols say “where is your bag?”).

Working on stage 4 of a Communication Book:

- Introduce symbols for 'future' and 'past' to add tenses to phrases by pointing to symbols such as
 - past - I - eat - cereal - breakfast to say 'I ate cereal for breakfast'
 - future - I - eat - pizza -dinner to say 'I will eat pizza for dinner'.
- Create opportunities for the child to practise questions, negotiating, reasoning (e.g pointing to the question symbol while saying "is there a question you want to ask?")
Use more than one page to discuss topics (e.g turning between people and places pages to say "James and I went to the zoo")
- Continue to build up the pages by adding extra vocabulary, or add new topic pages (e.g science)
- Don't worry about using correct grammar but use key symbols to convey the main message (e.g using I - happy - because - past - go - zoo can communicate 'I'm happy because I went to the zoo').

Advice based on "developing a communication book" by Claire Latham (2009).