Traditionally much of the language offered to young and beginning AAC communicators was comprised of nouns and descriptive words. This limits users to requesting and labeling when they have so much more to say. Core words, comprised of a set of words we most commonly use, gives AAC users access to a greater variety of words.

Activity 1 today will provide you with an experience to help you understand the importance of access to robust core vocabulary. (Virtual participants instead on engaging in a conversation make as many combinations of words as possible using each board.)
**Activity Instructions**

You have two communication boards for this activity.

1. Start with communication board labeled Board 1: Nouns. This is a type of board you might see in a typical preschool classroom.

2. Partner with someone at your table and have a conversation using this communication board.

3. One communication partner uses their voice while the other communication partner uses the communication board. Talk about your plans for the weekend, what you did for Thanksgiving, or just get to know each other.

4. After one minute switch roles so you can both experience being the communication board user.

5. After one more minute switch to the board labeled Board 2: Core and continue the conversation. This board contains the most common words used by toddlers.

6. Reflect on what you could or could not say using the two boards presented.

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**Key Take Aways**

- We need to introduce AAC early
- We need to give lots of input in symbol language before we expect output in symbol language
- Access to core vocabulary offers more combinations and flexibility in helping AAC users develop language
- Expect that they can

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**Core Vocabulary Resources**

Banajee Toddlers' Vocabulary Arranged by Frequency (2003)
[tinyurl.com/BanajeeVocabList](tinyurl.com/BanajeeVocabList)

PrAACtical AAC
[praacticalaac.org](praacticalaac.org)

CTD Getting Started with AAC Recorded Webinar
[tinyurl.com/CTDGettingStartedwithAAC](tinyurl.com/CTDGettingStartedwithAAC)

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*High expectations are the key to everything.*

Sam Walton
Activity 1: Communication Board 1

Say that sentence out loud for me

Go Back  Say that sentence out loud for me  Erase

I want  I need bathroom  All Done  My turn  Stop

Snack  Milk  Cookies  Crackers  More Please

Trampoline  Swing  Train Toy  Bubbles  I need a break
Say that sentence out loud for me

I, my/mine, want, more, yes, no

you, help, go, all, big, what

it, know, play, bad, good, where

done/finished, like, on, different, again, this

not, need, in, out, here, that