Charting the Cs
Cooperation . Communication . Collaboration

Charting the Cs Conference 2025:

To Literacy and Beyond

Cooperation
Communication
Collaboration

Ready, Set, Action!

Coaching the Assistive Technology implementation plan into action in Early Childhood Settings

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Objectives

- Describe the impact of coaching and its effectiveness in supporting effective AT implementation.
- Identify coaching strategies to use in your practice.
- Identify resources and tools to support coaching and the effective implementation of AT across daily activities and routines in early childhood settings.

Why Coaching?

Positive outcomes of coaching:

- Increased implementation of Evidence-Based-Practices
- Changes in teaching practices
- Teachers feel supported and open to trying new strategies

Coaching and assistive technology?

Increased confidence and capacity in all adults leads to:

- Increased effective and consistent use of assistive technology
- Increased participation and engagement of children
- Increased learning outcomes

Getting started with coaching: Teaching practices

- Provide a defined set of practices.
- Provide opportunities for learners to identify strengths and needs related to the practices.

Example Teaching Practices: Step Up AT

- Step Up AT Teacher Strengths and Needs Assessment.
- You can find this at stepupat.org. Go to the Resources tab and scroll down to Coaching Resources.

Example practices:

- Make it easier for children to join in classroom activities by giving them switches and other tools.
- Use pictures or talking tools to help children communicate.

Example Teaching practices: Augmentative and Alternative communication (AAC)

Create a list of practices from sources such as this article from Assistiveware:

- I model a variety of communicative functions using their system during everyday activities and routines.
  - o I use parallel talk while using the child's system
  - o I use self talk while using the child's system
  - o I narrate navigation while modeling
- I use an expectant pause to create communication opportunities.
- I attribute meaning to any communication attempts.
- I add more words or ideas to children's communication attempts.

Getting Started: Make a plan

- Identify a practice as a focus
- Collaborate to develop a plan
- Document the plan
- Provide enough details so roles are clear

Coaching Strategy: Create a coaching toolkit

For each practice, collect and organize the following:

- Learn more about it resources
- Illustrations of the practice
- Implementation supports

Coaching Toolkit: Learn more about it

Knowledge, skills, theoretical foundations, why.

- Define the important components of the practice
- Provide illustrations of the practice
- Provide examples and non-examples
- Use short videos, articles and infographics

Coaching Toolkit: Develop implementation supports

Help learners remember what they have learned, what they need to do and when to do it by using implementation supports such as:

- Matrices
- Implementation checklists
- Scripts
- Tip sheets
- Visual supports
- Memes and infographics

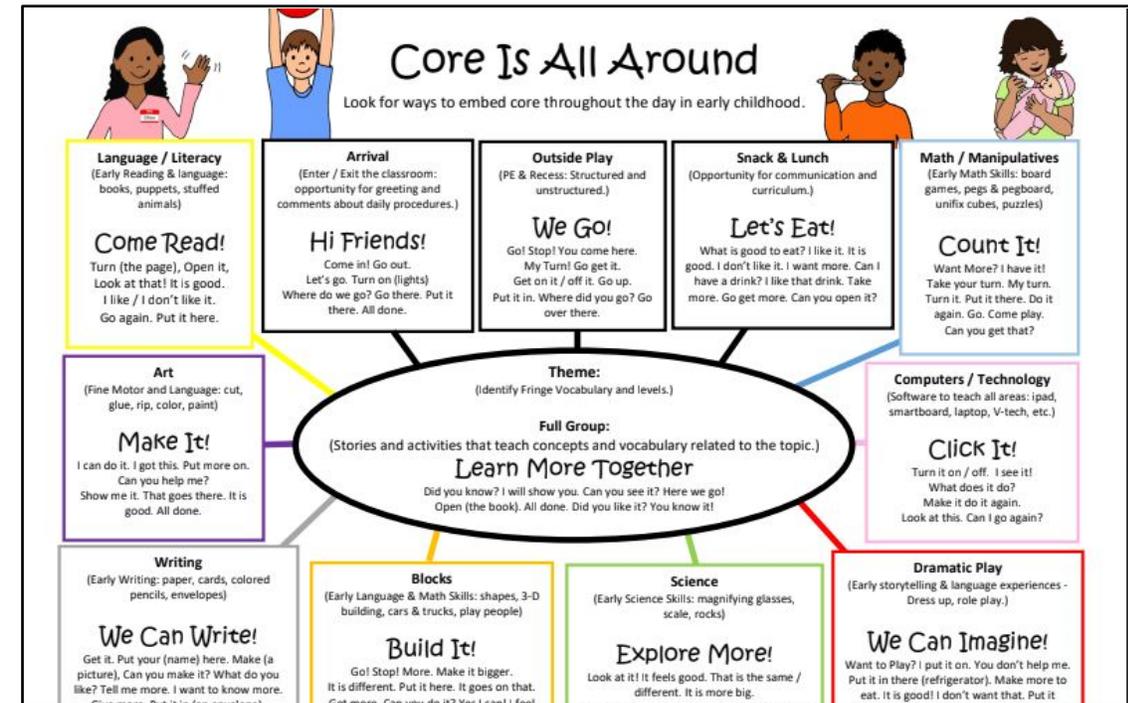# Coaching Toolkit: Learn more about modeling AAC

Coaching Toolkit: See modeling in action, video

Coaching Toolkit: Modeling Core Matrix

- Helps adults identify when to use the practice
- This one includes target words and scripts

Core Is All Around
Look for ways to embed core throughout the day in early childhood.

Language / Literacy
(Early Reading & language: books, puppets, stuffed animals)
Come Read!
Turn (the page), Open it, Look at that! It is good. I like / I don't like it. Go again. Put it here.

Arrival
(Enter / Exit the classroom: opportunity for greeting and comments about daily procedures.)
Hi Friends!
Come in! Go out. Let's go. Turn on (lights) Where do we go? Go there. Put it there. All done.

Outside Play
(PE & Recess: Structured and unstructured.)
We Go!
Go! Stop! You come here. My Turn! Go get it. Get on it / off it. Go up. Put it in. Where did you go? Go over there.

Snack & Lunch
(Opportunity for communication and curriculum.)
Let's Eat!
What is good to eat? I like it. It is good. I don't like it. I want more. Can I have a drink? I like that drink. Take more. Go get more. Can you open it?

Math / Manipulatives
(Early Math Skills: board games, pegs & pegboard, unifix cubes, puzzles)
Count It!
Want More? I have it! Take your turn. My turn. Turn it. Put it there. Do it again. Go. Come play. Can you get that?

Art
(Fine Motor and Language: cut, glue, rip, color, paint)
Make It!
I can do it. I got this. Put more on. Can you help me? Show me it. That goes there. It is good. All done.

Theme:
(Identify Fringe Vocabulary and levels.)

Full Group:
(Stories and activities that teach concepts and vocabulary related to the topic.)
Learn More Together
Did you know? I will show you. Can you see it? Here we go! Open (the book). All done. Did you like it? You know it!

Computers / Technology
(Software to teach all areas: ipad, smartboard, laptop, V-tech, etc.)
Click It!
Turn it on / off. I see it! What does it do? Make it do it again. Look at this. Can I go again?

Writing
(Early Writing: paper, cards, colored pencils, envelopes)
We Can Write!
Get it. Put your (name) here. Make (a picture), Can you make it? What do you like? Tell me more. I want to know more.

Blocks
(Early Language & Math Skills: shapes, 3-D building, cars & trucks, play people)
Build It!
Go! Stop! More. Make it bigger. It is different. Put it here. It goes on that. Get more. Can you do it? Yes I can! I feel

Science
(Early Science Skills: magnifying glasses, scale, rocks)
Explore More!
Look at it! It feels good. That is the same / different. It is more big.

Dramatic Play
(Early storytelling & language experiences - Dress up, role play.)
We Can Imagine!
Want to Play? I put it on. You don't help me. Put it in there (refrigerator). Make more to eat. It is good! I don't want that. Put it

Coaching Toolkit: Modeling AAC plan and script

- Provide prompts for words to model and scripts for creating communication opportunities.

Step Up AT learn more about it resources

Step Up AT Project video library on You Tube

- @stepupatproject5640
- Short videos of AT practices
- Device demonstration
- Videos available in English and Spanish

Step Up AT modules

- Short modules
- Free
- https://www.development.stepupat.org/

Coaching Strategy: Rehearse

Rehearse

- Practice
- Role play
- Reflect and problem Solve

Coaching Strategy: Model

Effective modeling:

- Discuss the plan for modeling with the learner
- Explain what you will be doing and why
- Give the learner a job
- Reflect

Coaching strategy: Observation

Coach observes the teacher implementing the practice at an agreed upon time. Make a plan for the observation:

- What data will the coach collect?
- What will the coach watch for?
- What real time support might be provided? (gestural cues, verbal cues)

Coaching strategy: Reflection

Provide opportunities for the teacher to reflect on their implementation of the practice.

- What went well?
- How did that feel?
- What was challenging?
- What did you notice when…?
- What would you keep the same, change?

Coaching strategy: Feedback

Feedback is:

- Focused
- Specific
- Supportive and constructive

Feedback Tips and Strategies

- I Notice Statements

  o Supportive: I noticed that you xxxx and this is a great example of xxxx.

  o Supportive: I noticed that you xxx and this is important because xxx.

  o Constructive: I noticed xxx, some strategies you might consider are xxx.

  o Constructive: I noticed xxx, something you might try is….

- Use language of teaching and learning familiar to your team
- Keep suggestions specific and simple
- Feedback can be provided in written form, emails, notes

My coaching action plan

What are your next steps?

- Find practices, create lists of practices

- Create, find and display easily understood visuals

- Collect and share videos of amazing implementation in practice

- Collect and organize articles and videos of the practices
- Record others using the practices
- Learn more about reflection and feedback
- Try out some feedback starters
- Plan rehearsal or modeling
- Explore the Step Up AT website

Resources: General

- Step Up AT website: https://www.stepupat.org/

- Closing the Gap Article: A Coaching Mindset for Better AT Implementation: https://online.flippingbook.com/view/471571059/

- Head Start Practice Based Coaching resource page: https://headstart.gov/professional-development/article/practice-based-coaching-pbc

- The Essentials of Practice Based Coaching in Early Childhood Settings: https://products.brookespublishing.com/Essentials-of-Practice-Based-Coaching-P1288.aspx

Resources: Teaching Practices

- Step Up AT Teacher Needs Assessment: https://www.stepupat.org/wp-content/uploads/C3-Teacher-Strengths-and-Needs-Assessment-FROM-COACHING-MANUAL-V3-1.pdf

- Oakland Schools Providing Communication Opportunities with AAC Checklist: https://www.communicationmatrix.org/Uploads/Posts/8371/Opportunities Self Assessment.pdf

- Assistiveware article Communication Partner Skills for AAC learners: https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac/build-communication-partner-skills

Resources: Teaching Practices, Continued

Communication Partner Observation and Reflection Guide: https://ddwa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/DDWA-Communication-Partner-Observation-and-Reflection-Guide-updated-02042024.pdf

Resources: Make a plan

- Step Up AT action plan form: https://www.stepupat.org/wp-content/uploads/Action-Plan.pdf

- Head Start action plan form: https://headstart.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/no-search/coaching-corner-pbc-coach-training-action-plan-b.pdf

- Augmentative and Alternative communication action plan form: https://ussaac.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/JEPL-AAC-Implementation-Action-Plan.pdf

Resources: Learn More about It

- Step Up AT project video learning library: https://www.youtube.com/@stepupatproject5640/videos

- Step Up AT project learning modules: https://www.development.stepupat.org/

- AAC Learning Lab resources: https://aaclanguagelab.com/resources?category=teaching-and-therapy-material

- AAC Strategies Webinar: https://youtu.be/s8pMaoFNAH4?si=Cc_nSYWyVMAwZl7G

- Kate Ahern Prompting hierarchy visual: https://youtu.be/JrzkV36P1Ys?si=KkNuKuseCjglmG1A

Resources: Learn More about It, Continued

- Lauren Enders Gonzales Pinterest Board AAC signs, posters and memes: https://www.pinterest.com/lasenders/aac-memes-signs-and-posters/

- Modeling AAC video: https://youtu.be/LqeAipcciVQ?si=HSuGa7zBKMeayP6E

- AAC Core vocabulary illustration video: https://youtu.be/UZSwwbhyExE?si=BGkgrNGIBu2aM0ur

- Lesson Pix Core vocabulary resources: https://lessonpix.com/articles/5/214/Core

- Video: Aided Language Stimulation explained: https://youtu.be/flFNMky22-U?si=F6MePeckL48rsJxA

- The Art of Attributing Meaning video: https://youtu.be/JrzkV36P1Ys?si=KkNuKuseCjglmG1A

Resources: Matrices and planning tools

- NCQTL Activity matrix for modifications: https://center-elp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/curriculum-modifications-module-5-activity-matrix.pdf

- Let's Grow Language planning form: https://aaclanguagelab.com/resources/lets-grow-language

- Lesson Pix Core is All Around blank planning matrix: https://lessonpix.com/images/EarlyChildhoodModelCoreLanguagePlans-Blank.pdf

- Saltillo Core vocabulary activity planner: https://saltillo.com/images/putting-aided-language-into-practice-choosing-vocab-activity-first-.pdf

Resources: Observation

- Head Start Observation form: https://headstart.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/no-search/pbc-mod-handout-template.pdf

- Step Up AT Action Summary Form: https://www.stepupat.org/wp-content/uploads/Action-Summary-Form.pdf

- Practical AAC Classroom Observation for Communication Opportunities with AAC: https://praacticalaac.org/wp-content/uploads/filebase/assessment/Classroom%20Observation%20for%20Communication%20Opportunities%20with%20AAC%20COCOA.pdf

Resources: Reflection and Feedback

- Step Up AT Observation Debrief Guide: https://www.stepupat.org/wp-content/uploads/Observation_Debrief_Guide.pdf

- PBC Coaching Reflection and Feedback Starter Phrases:

- https://headstart.gov/sites/default/files/video/attachments/coaching-corner-series-starter-phrases.pdf?redirect=eclkc

- Step Up AT Teacher Reflection Form: https://www.stepupat.org/wp-content/uploads/Teacher-Reflection-on-Practice.pdf

- A Coaching Guide to asking reflective questions: https://info.teachstone.com/blog/a-coaching-guide-to-asking-reflective-questions-part-1

Resources: Reflection and Feedback, Continued

- Head Start Constructive feedback examples: https://headstart.gov/sites/default/files/video/attachments/coaching-corner-series-constructive-feedback.pdf

- Head Start Webinar Reflection and Feedback Strategies for Success: https://headstart.gov/video/reflection-feedback-strategies-success

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Thank you!

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