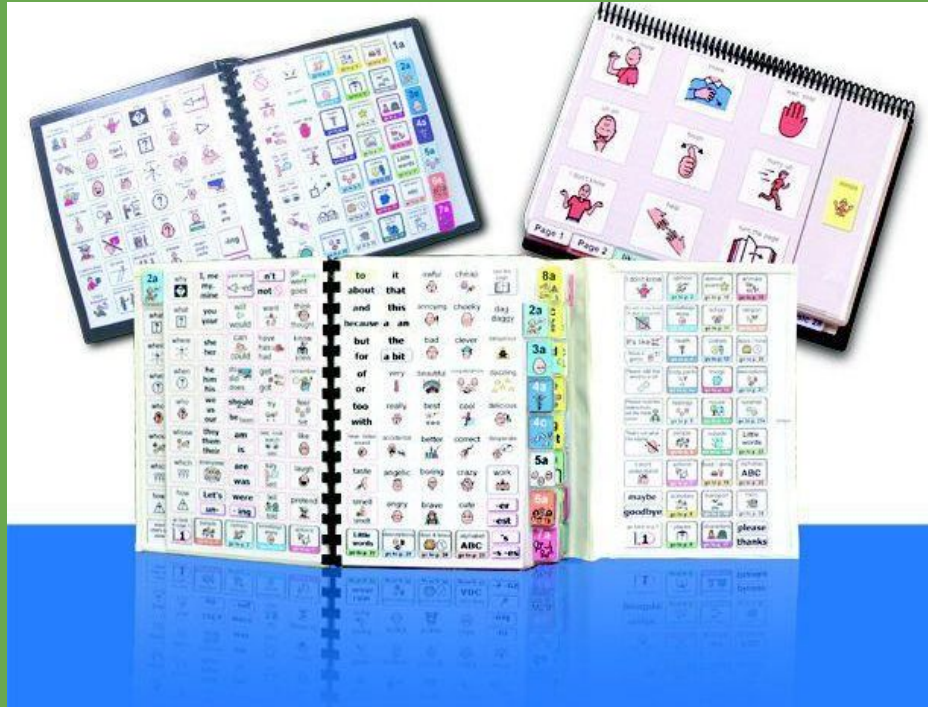


# PODD



# AAC at Mapledown



# What is AAC?

- **Augmentative and alternative communication.**
- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) includes all forms of communication (other than oral speech) that are used to express thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas.**
- **There are two types of AAC- **aided** and **unaided**.**

# Unaided AAC

Unaided AAC doesn't require a physical aid or tool.

e.g.

- Facial expressions
- Body language
- Gestures
- Makaton

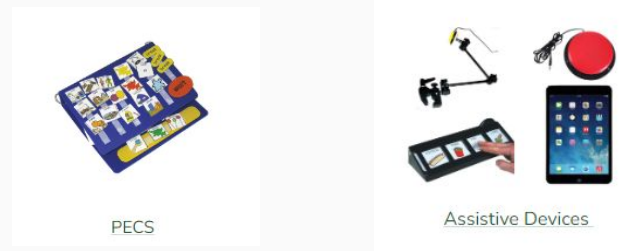


# Aided AAC

Aided AAC requires a physical aid or tool.

e.g.

- Symbols
- PECS
- PODD
- Switches
- Apps







# Frequently used AAC at Mapledown

## Makaton

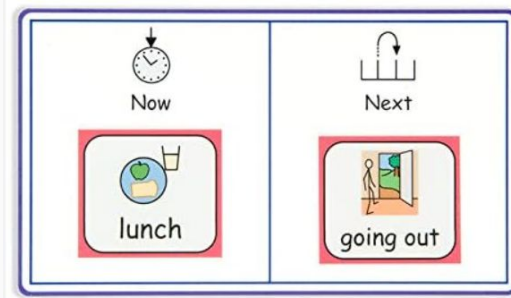
Makaton uses speech with signs (gestures) and symbols (pictures) to help people communicate. We also use facial expression, eye contact and body language to give as much information as possible.



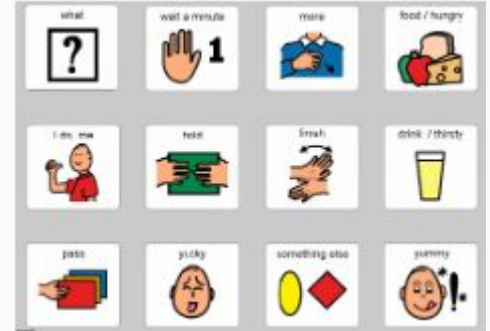
# Frequently used AAC at Mapledown



Switches



Symbols



Aided Language Display

# PODD books

High contrast symbols



Partner-assisted scanning



Visual scanning



# Hi-tech



# Modelling

## Common misconceptions

- There is too much language in a PODD book”
- “They aren’t using it”

“Typically developing children generally produce their first words between 12 and 18 months old.” ([Tager-Flusberg et al. 2009](#); [Zubrick et al. 2007](#)),

Even so, this is after consistent exposure and modelling of language.

As adults, we don’t stop talking to babies and toddlers just because they aren’t yet “talking back”.

PODD is no different. We need to consistently and continuously expose our learners to language through modelling.

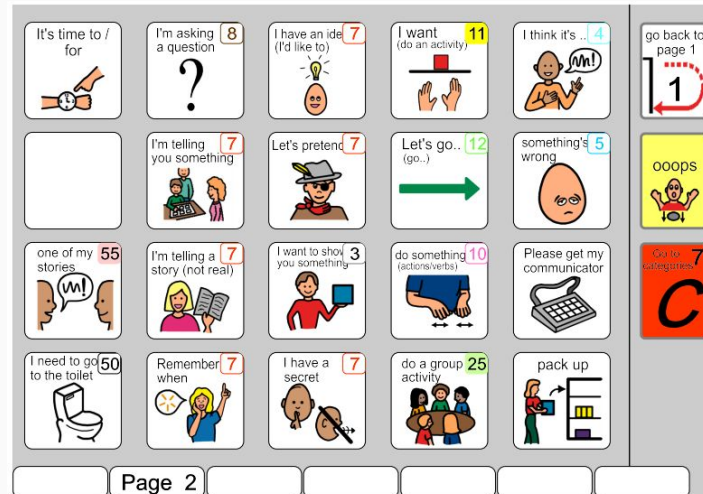
**REMEMBER-** We need to give our learners time.

Children who use speech to communicate are surrounded with examples of language throughout their day, in all situations and by many different people. It takes children years to learn to speak competently with all these examples of language.

If we compare this to a child learning to use AAC- if they only have limited exposure to the system and only at specific times, then we are setting them up to fail.

# PODD book layout

The main navigation index consists of 'pragmatic branch starters' (eg. I'm asking a question, I'm telling you something, I want)



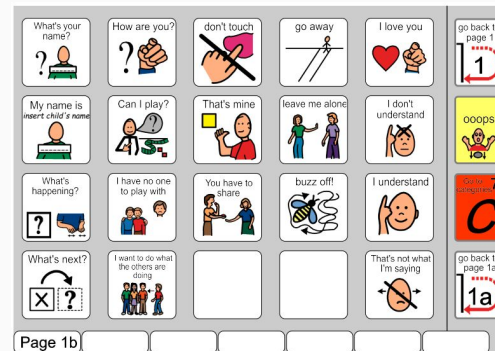
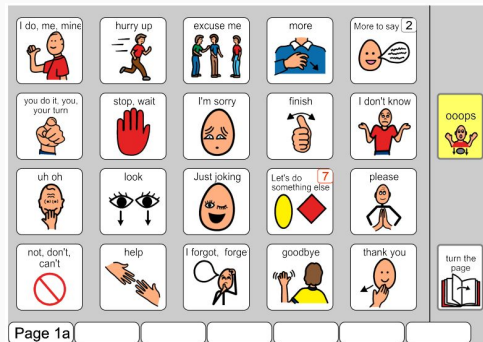
# PODD book layout

and 'category/section names' (eg. people, activities, descriptions).


























# Let's chat

- The first 2 pages of the PODD book are essentially quick chat pages. If nothing else, you would be able to model language using these pages. Using the chat pages (1a and b) how many different things could you say during your day to the people you work with or our young people?



# “More to say”

“More to say” will always bring you to more pragmatic branches  
(sentence starters)

 It's time to / for	 I'm asking a question <b>8</b>	 I have an idea (I'd like to) <b>7</b>	 I want (to do an activity) <b>11</b>	 I think it's... <b>4</b>	 go back to page 1
	 I'm telling you something <b>7</b>	 Let's pretend <b>7</b>	 Let's go... <b>12</b> (go...)	 something's <b>5</b> wrong	 oops
 one of my stories <b>55</b>	 I'm telling a story (not real) <b>7</b>	 I want to show you something <b>3</b>	 do something <b>10</b> (do...)	 Please get my communicator	 go to page 7
 I need to go to the toilet <b>50</b>	 Remember when <b>7</b>	 I have a secret <b>7</b>	 do a group activity <b>25</b>	 pack up	
	Page 2				

# Let's chat (commenting)

## OPINIONS

A pupil is sharing their work with the class.

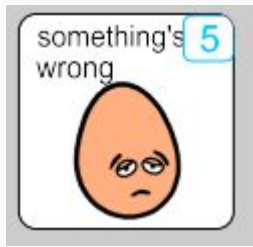
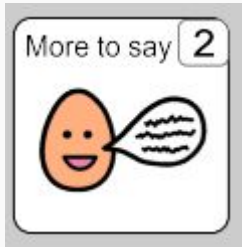
What is your opinion of the work?



# Let's chat

## COMPLAINTS

How would you tell somebody that you are feeling unwell?



# Let's chat

## COMPLAINTS

If you could see that a young person was unwell how could you model labelling how they are feeling?



"I think there is something wrong"



# Let's chat

## Go somewhere

Tell me that you want to go somewhere?

Where do you want to go?

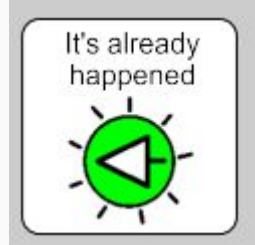


# Let's chat- introducing categories

## SOMETHING HAS ALREADY HAPPENED

What did you do at the weekend?

Tell me when it happened and what happened.



# Practice recap

After practicing, who is still looking for the “more to say” symbol every time?

Who is now automatically finding it?

Practicing and learning patterns one at a time helps us to learn to be more fluent using PODD.

