

Developing Expressive Language Through AAC

OSLHA, March 2011
Columbus, Ohio

By Verda McGraw, M.S. Ed.

- Teaching Language or
- Teaching Vocabulary
 - What is the difference?
 - Why teach language?



- You come into a room and say “cupcakes”.
- Then the 20 questions game begins, because “cupcakes” is a fringe word.
- You need core to tell about the cupcakes.
- Example:

She made cupcakes for us.
- Green words are core, red is fringe.



- To teach language you need quick access to core words.
- What is the difference between core and fringe vocabulary?
 - Core words are the building blocks for language
 - Fringe words are like the words your science teacher wants you to learn, and then you don't say them again for six weeks.

All Words are NOT Created Equal

hibernate

who

up

is

have

Paul Revere

about

do

Jupiter

a

want

cylinder

am

scaffolding

down

Core vs. Fringe

hibernate

who

up

is

have

Paul Revere

about

do

Jupiter

a

want

cylinder

am

scaffolding

down

Toddler Vocabulary Arranged by Frequency

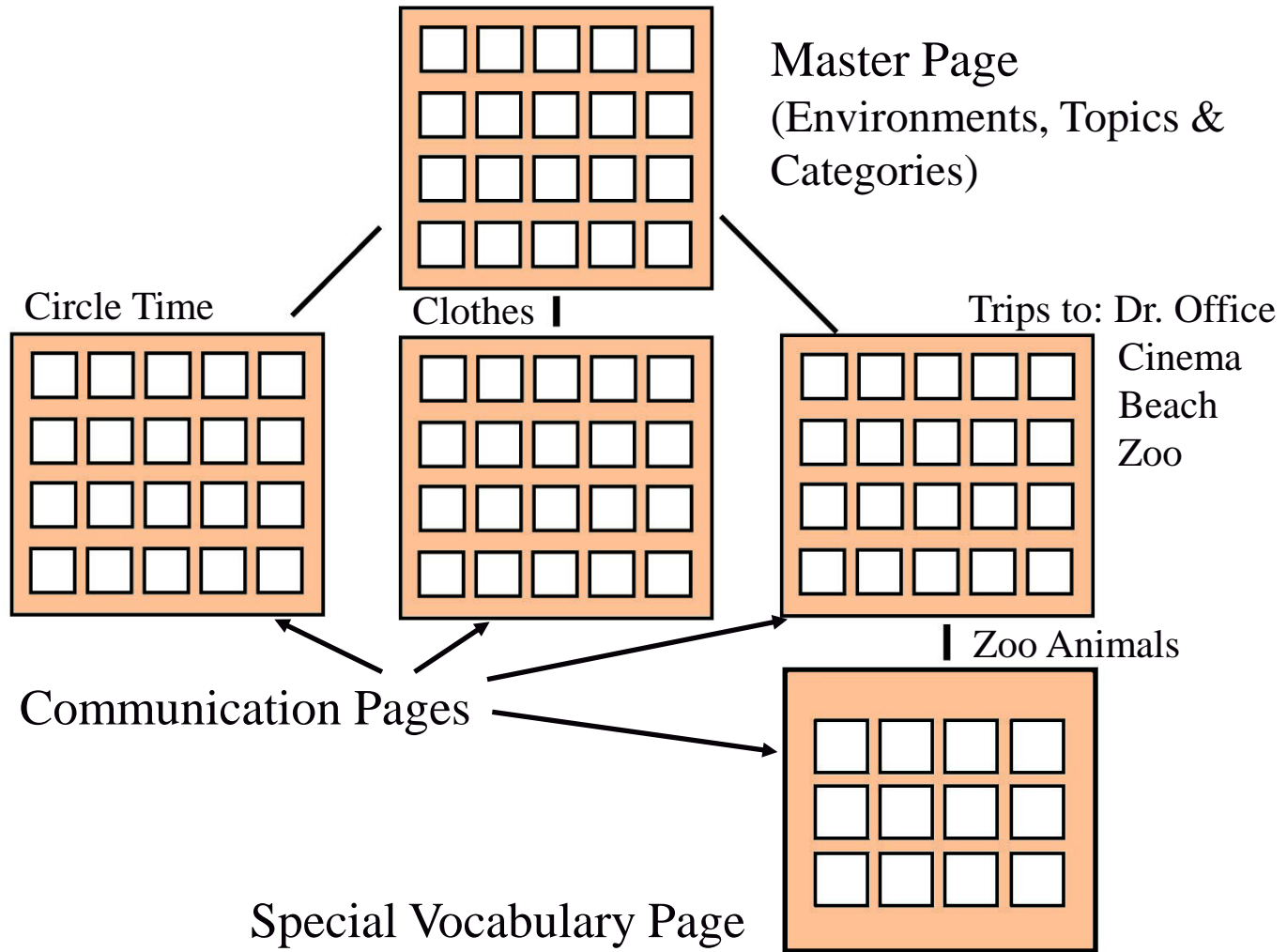
■ Twenty-six core words shown here comprise 96.3% of the total words used by toddlers. How many of these words are commonly seen on language boards?

Words	Percentage
I	9.5
No	8.5
Yes/yea	7.6
My	5.8
The	5.2
Want	5.0
Is	4.9
It	4.9
That	4.9
A	4.6
Go	4.4
Mine	3.8
You	3.2
What	3.1
On	2.8
In	2.7
Here	2.7
More	2.6
Out	2.4
Off	2.3
Some	2.3
Help	2.1
All done/finished	1.0

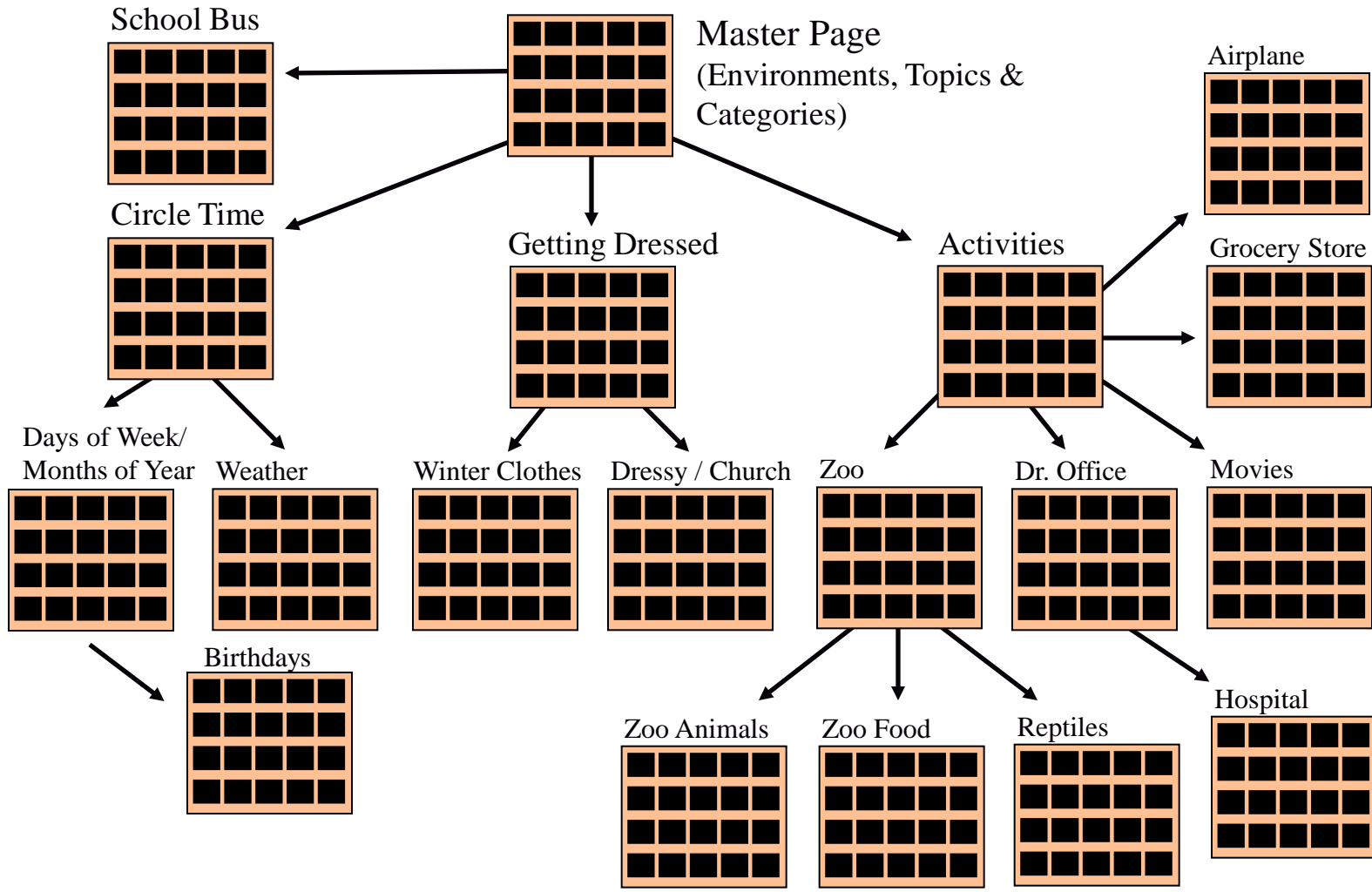
Banajee, DiCarlo & Sricklin, (AAC 2003)

- Building language depends on quick access to frequently used core words.
 - 80% of what we say throughout a day comes from a small bank of **400-500 CORE** words
 - 20% of what we say comes from a bank of **thousands** of **FRINGE** words

How Multi-page/multi-folder Hierarchies Work



How Multi-page Systems Work after a few Months



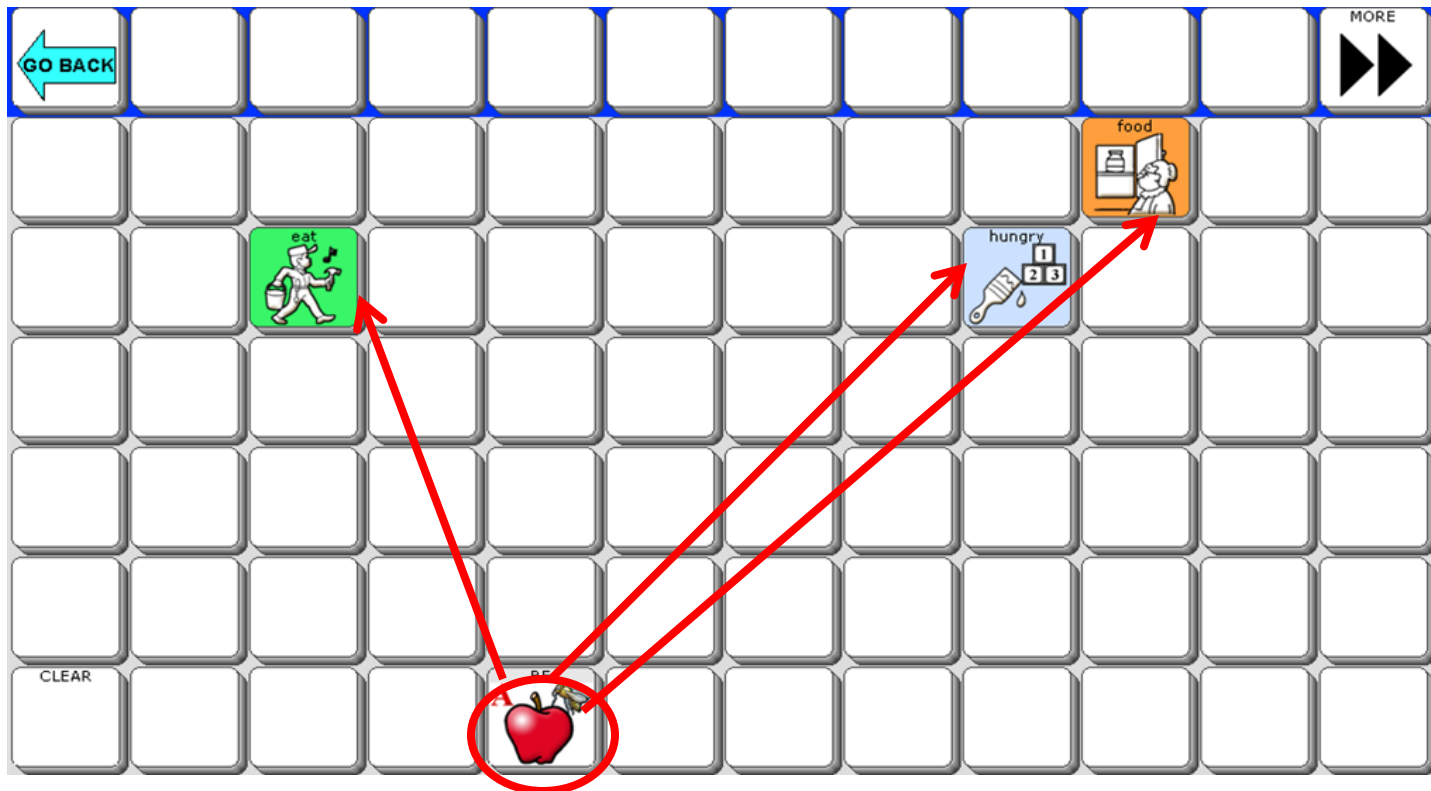
- Too much navigation is a drawback to teaching language.
- You need quick access to core words in stable locations.
- Developing language with speech involves learning motor patterns.
- Developing language with AAC involves learning motor patterns.

Pattern 1 – Category icon + grammar ending

eat

hungry

food



The image shows a grid-based AAC interface with 12 columns and 7 rows. The top row contains a 'GO BACK' button (left arrow), 10 empty cells, and a 'MORE' button (right arrow). The second row contains an 'eat' icon (green, person eating) in the 3rd column, a 'hungry' icon (blue, person with a stomach ache) in the 7th column, and a 'food' icon (orange, person pointing to a food item) in the 9th column. The bottom row contains a 'CLEAR' button (left) and an apple icon in the 5th column. Red arrows originate from the apple icon and point to the 'eat', 'hungry', and 'food' icons, illustrating the sequence: Apple → eat → hungry → food.

- The support you need for teaching language
 - All those therapy materials
 - PRC's great collection of materials
 - Not very well organized until recently
 - Our new organization in the AAC Language Lab based on language development stages

Let's look at the Language Lab



<http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/>

- Main parts of the AAC Language Lab
 - Charts of language development relating to AAC
<http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/other/charts>
 - Language stages information
<http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/stages>
 - PRC devices and language stages
<http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/unity-programs>

- Main parts of the AAC Language Lab
 - Language therapy materials
 - Lesson plans organized by stages
<http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/resources/lessonplans/>
 - Supplemental materials
<http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/resources/books>
 - Smart charts – one example
<http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/materials/stage1directingactivitiespart1springboardliteunity32.pdf>

- Main parts of the AAC Language Lab

- Therapy materials in your device

- <http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/resources/resources-in-device>

- Best free downloads for teaching Unity

- <http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/materials/Unity-60-Curriculum-Guide.pdf>

- <http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/materials/Unity-84-Curriculum-Guide.pdf>

- Navigating the AAC Language Lab site:
- AAC Language Lab at the top left is home
- Three main parts go across the bottom of the home page
 - Language Stages
 - Devices and Unity Programs
 - Teaching Resources (lots of lesson plans here)

The left column on all other pages directs you to parts of the Language Lab

Language for a
Lifetime.



LANGUAGE STAGES



Learn how language develops in stages, and how to develop expressive language at each stage with the Unity language system.

[Details »](#)

DEVICES AND UNITY PROGRAMS



Look at PRC communication devices and Unity programs to find out which one is best for you.

[Details »](#)

TEACHING RESOURCES



Find a wealth of teaching materials, including lesson plans for language concepts, materials from the PRC Teaching Materials Exchange, and much more.

[Details »](#)

I just reviewed the new Language Lab info on your website and immediately copied Stage 1 and 2 as a guide for working with my students at Finch. I really

Stage Selection

[Stage 1](#)

[Stage 2](#)

[Stage 3](#)

[Stage 4](#)

[Stage 5](#)

[Stage 6](#)

[Stage Selection Help](#)

Quick Links

[Devices and Unity Programs](#)

Teaching Resources

[Clicker 5 Books](#)

[Power Point Books](#)

[Collecting and Analyzing](#)

Teaching Resources



Language Lesson Plans

[View Language Lesson Plans](#)

Language Lesson Plans are designed to guide you through certain language development milestones as you teach Unity. Each lesson plan contains a target language outcome, a short list of vocabulary words, suggested objectives, ideas for teaching activities, and links to smart charts with the Unity icons. There are smart charts for each Unity program so you know how to model the target words for each lesson in Unity.

Teaching Materials Exchange

[View Teaching Materials Exchange](#)

The best therapy materials from PRC's Teaching Materials Exchange have been selected to support learning in each of the language stages. These materials provide extra practice along with fun games, books, and Power Point activities.

Teaching Resources in the Device

[More Information](#)

We welcome your input.

<http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/other/contact>

Please send us your comments and ideas!

Submit a teaching idea.

Share an experience about teaching language.

Ask a question.

We'd love to hear from you.

Vocabulary Builder

- Notes on Vocabulary Builder
 - New technology in PRC devices
 - Masks over all words except the ones you choose
 - Allows you to start on a large vocabulary and grow
 - Eliminated transition issues from one MAP to another

Vocabulary Builder

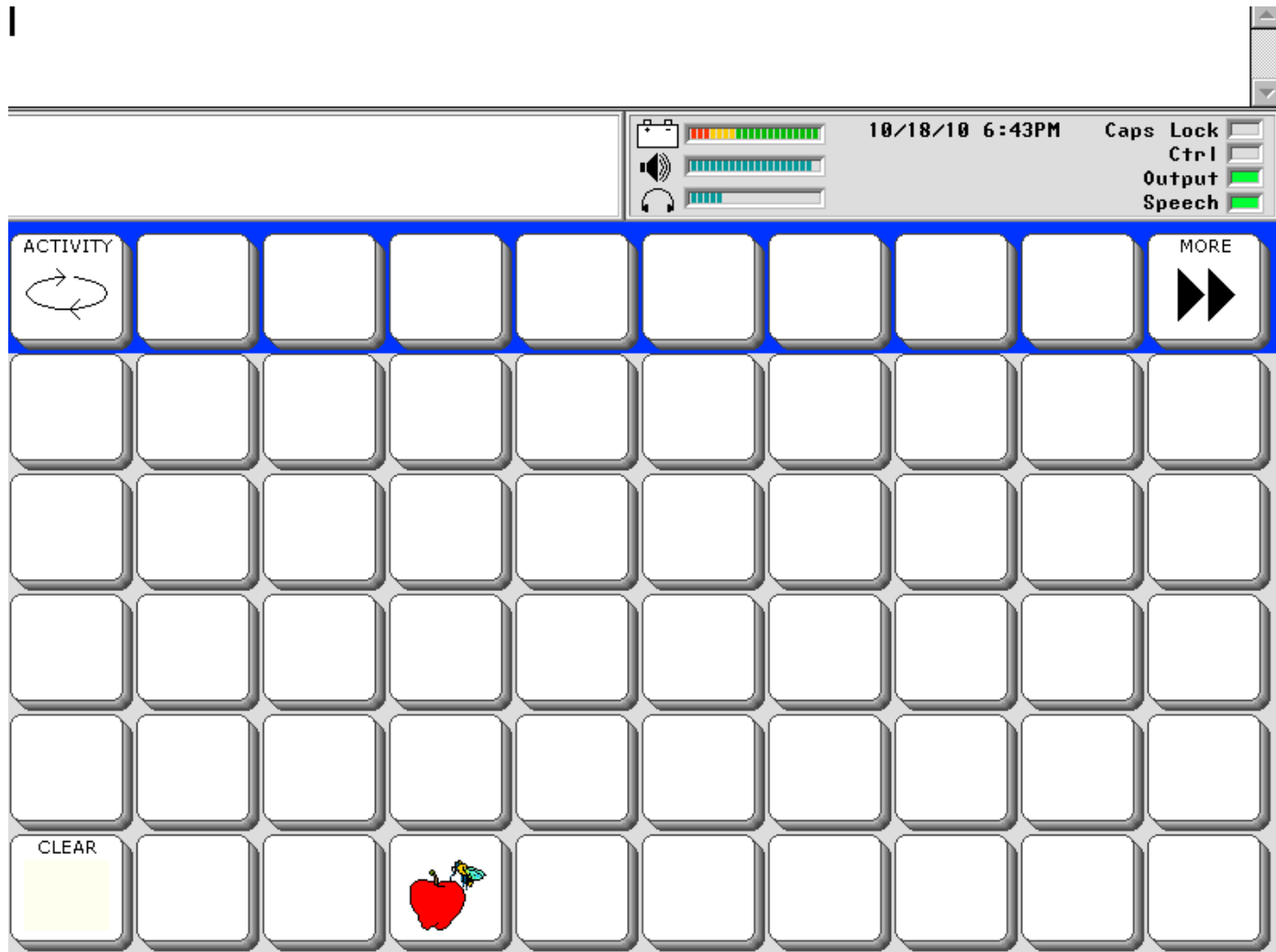
- **Vocabulary Builder How-To**
- **Description:** Using the VOCABULARY BUILDER tool allows you to teach an individual to use a sequenced version of Unity (i.e. Unity 45, 60, 84 or 144 Sequenced) without exposing them to each and every key while they are first learning vocabulary locations. For many device users, introducing keys slowly over time allows them to process new information more readily.

Vocabulary Builder Off

10/18/10 6:38PM Caps Lock
Ctrl
Output
Speech

ACTIVITY	YES NO	GREETING	ME	SPELL	DEVICE	SCHOOL	HAVE FUN	MP3 PLAYE	PAGES
	word			ABC					
				1+1=2		word	a	+s	
			is	were	was	to	NUMBERs	an	the
			+s	+ing	+ed	to		+er	+est
CLEAR									

Vocabulary Builder On with access to food words only



Vocabulary Builder How To

STEPS TO FOLLOW:

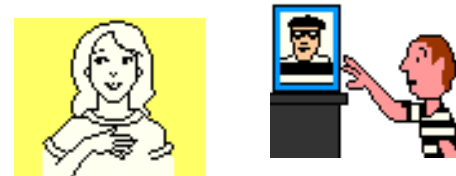
- Be sure your device is running current software. You can check this in the Maint Menu in your device toolbox. Vantage Lite and Vanguard should be 5.05 or higher. ECO 2 should be 2.06 or higher. You can download free upgrades at <http://www.prentrom.com/downloads/updates>
- Select the #3 key on the top of your device case. This will activate the Vocabulary Builder software. You should see this at the top of your device screen:

Vocabulary Builder How To



Select “Mask all Words and Keys”. You will see all the icon keys on your screen turn gray. They are now hidden.

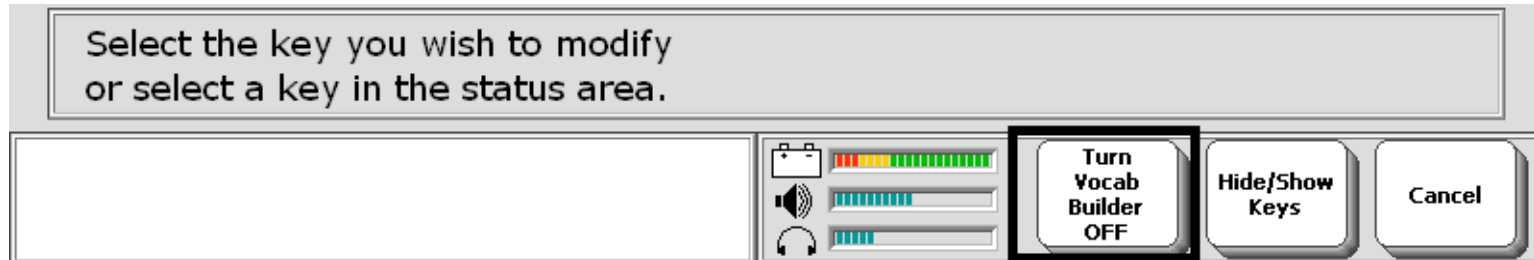
Begin touching the sequences for words and phrases that you’d like to have “showing”. For example, if you want the phrase “I want” to be showing, you will touch these keys:



Vocabulary Builder How To

- You can use the NAVIGATE button to gain access into activities and pages that are hidden.
- When you are finished, simply touch the text box area on your device screen.
- If you need to turn the vocabulary builder OFF at any time, select the #2 key at the top of your device case (also known as the set up key) and choose “TURN VOCAB BUILDER OFF”.

Vocabulary Builder How To



If you need suggestions for first words and phrases for teaching a beginner, you might consider utilizing our free AAC LANGUAGE LAB at <http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/>

More Resources

Locate your PRC regional consultant:

<http://www.prentrom.com/reps>

Find an e-training on Unity:

<http://www.prentrom.com/training/etraining>

Find a face-to-face Unity training:

<http://www.prentrom.com/training/regional>