



Modeling Without Expectation



What is it?

Modeling without expectation means showing students how to communicate without asking or forcing them to respond in a specific way.



Why?



Because we don't want communication to feel like work! We want students to see the tools available to them as a powerful way of sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings.

Teaching not Testing

We want to focus on showing all the ways we can communicate and use communication tools to express ourselves. Exposure is the goal. We want to limit questions and focus on making comments about what we see, think, and feel.



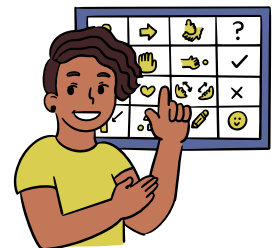
Why?



We want our students to feel relaxed and excited about using different ways of communicating. We don't want them to feel pressured to respond or feel like there is a right or wrong way of answering.

Make it Meaningful

Incorporate modeling into everyday learning. Model words that match what our students need to talk about like: curriculum concepts, social phrases, frequently used core words. Model words and phrases that match their actions and interests in addition to learning-based modeling.



Why?



Students learn best when we match our comments and modeling to what they are interested in and what they're learning about. They develop a deeper sense of connection when they know we are interested in the same things as them and when our modeling matches their needs.

Make it Available

The best communication tools are the ones that are available whenever students need them. Making sure that supports like a core vocabulary board or a communication device are available throughout the day is key to students learning to use them. If the student is consistently speaking (using verbal language), modeling in a wide variety of situations, with different people will help them to learn all the different ways they can communicate with others.

