

Intervention Idea: Teach Request for “More”

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Children, in the early stages of language acquisition, are developing a full range of reasons to communicate. Just like us, children learn how to communicate throughout the day for many reasons. Two reasons for communicating are to (1) to make requests for things we want and (2) to make comments about life around us. Asking for “more” of something is a very popular early language function.

- Create the **need** for new communication device learners to make requests and to make comments in familiar activities.
 - Pause an activity that they are enjoying. This will create the need for new learners to use their device to request continuation of the activity. New learners might say “more” using the following Minspeak® sequence to continue the activity:



- Choose an activity which can be repeated over and over (e.g., blowing bubbles or singing a song), so that new learners get many opportunities for practice.
- If an opportunity to request continuation of an activity is not taken up, just use the communication device to model for the new learner what could be said and continue with the activity. The new learner will benefit from your example. Use the communication device to talk about what you and the new learner are doing; modeling will provide the new learner with a rich, language-learning environment.
- Expand what new learners say by adding an additional word. This is an effective teaching strategy, as this will show new learners how to make their utterances longer. In this example if the new learner says “more” to continue an activity, expand the utterance and model saying “want more” with the device.

