

# Strategies for Selecting and Incorporating Core Vocabulary

Webinar Starts at 4:00 pm Eastern





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Mentor Public Schools

- Meredith Harrah is a national certified and state licensed Speech-Language Pathologist currently working as a school-based therapist.
- She has treated children with a range of challenges, including autism; Down syndrome; cerebral palsy; hearing impairments; and fluency, articulation/phonology, and expressive/receptive language disabilities

# What is Core Vocabulary?



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Core Vocabulary is a relatively small set of words that make up the majority of oral and written language.

If you can only teach five words what would give you access to more language?

- More
- Eat
- Help
- Go
- Different



# Information from Project Core

In a study, a total of 23 words accounted for 96% of the words this group of children used.

The words in descending frequency of use were:

- |           |        |        |                     |
|-----------|--------|--------|---------------------|
| • I       | • is   | • you  | • out               |
| • no      | • it   | • what | • off               |
| • yes/yea | • that | • on   | • some              |
| • my      | • a    | • in   | • help              |
| • the     | • go   | • here | • all done/finished |
| • want    | • mine | • more |                     |

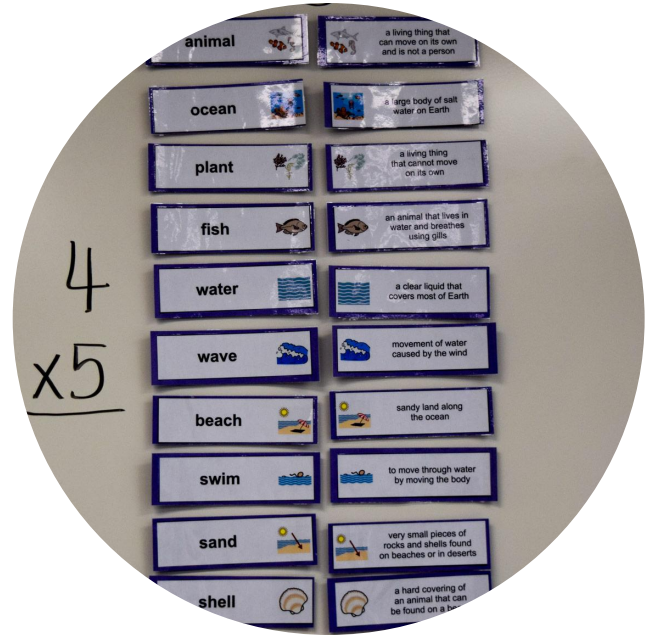
**Project Core** (<http://www.project-core.com/core-vocabulary/>):

Beukelman, D. R., Jones, R. S., Rowan, M. (1989). Frequency of word usage by nondisabled peers in integrated preschool classrooms. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 5, 243-248. doi:10.1080/07434618912331275296



# What is Fringe Vocabulary?

- Fringe vocabulary are words we use to talk about specific topics.
- For example, if we wanted to talk about the zoo, elephant, giraffe, and tiger would be fringe vocabulary. If we were in class, scissors, pencil, and paper, would be fringe vocabulary we might use.
- While fringe vocabulary is used less frequently as core vocabulary, it allows us the opportunity to talk about very specific items.



# Fringe vs. Core

If you can only teach 5 words, what words would you pick?

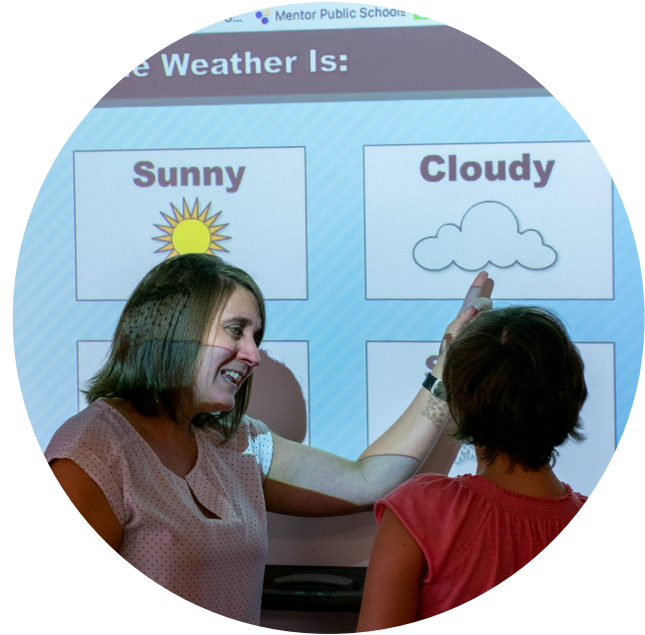
Help  
Different  
Done  
Go  
Finished

Cookie  
Ball  
Bubbles  
Chair  
Elephant

# Aided Language Input

Aided Language Input helps students:

- Understand that their behaviors carry meaning
- Learn how they can use symbols to communicate more conventionally
- Develop language by showing how to expand messages by adding additional symbols





# Where Do I Start?

like	want	get	make	good	more
not	go	look	turn	help	different
I	he	open	do	put	same
you	she	that	up	all	some
it	here	in	on	can	finished
where	what	why	who	when	stop

# How to Pick Your Core Word List

It's up to YOU. Here's what's working for my team:

One class; we align with letter of the week.

- Examples, p-push, o-on, etc
- Align to go with N2Y article, hurricane - HELP



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# I Have My List. Now What?

- Create visual supports using your student's device language.
- Hang all over the room so they are easily accessible.



# Set a Classroom Goal (x amount of times per day)

- MODEL, MODEL, MODEL
- Get *everyone* involved – OT, IS, Paraprofessionals, principal, etc.
- The more staff involved the more your students are going to hear the word.
- Remember, we are trying to expose our students to the vocabulary rather than ‘make’ them use it.



# Classroom Activities

- **Morning meeting:**
  - hi/hello, look (weather), turn, happy, sad
- **Snack time:**
  - more, finished, eat, like, help, want, different
- **Math:**
  - some/all, again, big, little
- **Story time:**
  - turn, read, open, more, pretty, see
- **Transition:**
  - finished, go, bye



# Applications and Games

- **Interactive Applications:** on/off, in, under, again, different, eat, more, turn
- **Pop the Pig:** open, turn, in, push, again, more, some
- **Putting a piece of candy inside a clear box:** open, help, want
- **Wind up cars:** go, fast/slow, turn
- **Bubbles:** more, blow, up/down, big/little
- **Playdoh:** different color, want, more, cut
- **Video: LIMITLESS**
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVlcKp3bWH8>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUXk8Nc5qQ8>





# Questions?

ASK THE EXPERT



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