

A One-Star Communication Partner might...

KNOWING THE SYSTEM

- Show interest in person's communication systems and want to learn more.
- Respect that person's use of her PODD, her signs and her vocalisations, are all important and valid communications.

KNOWING THE COMMUNICATOR

- Greet person, and wait for her to respond.
- Talk to person just as you would talk to another person of the same age.
- Talk to person about the things you like to talk about and think may help to grow her interests too.

KNOWING HOW TO MODEL

- Watch another communication partner talk with person.
- Look at person when she talks with you, not at her device.

A Two-Star Communication Partner might...

KNOWING THE SYSTEM

- Know what person's PODD is for and what other AAC she uses.
- Understand a few of person's signs and vocalisations/words.
- Remind others that person's PODD needs to be always available to her.

KNOWING THE COMMUNICATOR

- Greet person using AAC and give her time to respond.
- Help person to talk about some of the things she likes to talk about, and know how to help her find these in her PODD.
- Know how to find in person's PODD, some things that you like to talk about to her.
- Give person time to respond to communication.

KNOWING HOW TO MODEL

- Have a go at sharing an idea, using the PODD to model.
- Use 'chat words' with some confidence when talking to person.
- Tell person what you think she might be saying.
- Have a go at using some basic signs when talking with person.
- Model on a visual schedule.
- Model on an Aided Language Displays, including the General Interactive.

A Three-Star Communication Partner might...

KNOWING THE SYSTEM

- Help person to learn that she always needs her PODD available by making sure it's nearby, or has an easy way to ask for it (eg. one page board, wrist band).
- Know how to position person's PODD book for successful access.
- Know how to set up person's TOBII on its mounts, to open PODD, to adjust volume, and to check if her eyes are being detected by the device.

KNOWING THE COMMUNICATOR

- Help person to understand that she can say what she's thinking by using her body, sounds, or AAC, by responding to all of these ways of communicating.
- Verbally reference person's initiations (eg. Touching PODD, looking at PODD, vocalising) with "Hey! I see you have something to say".
- Take turns when talking with person

KNOWING HOW TO MODEL

- Model with PODD what you are saying, as you talk with person.
- Model what others are saying as they talk.
- Model language used in stories and music.
- Attribute meaning to, and model on PODD, what you think person might be saying (eg. I wonder if you are saying...)
- Model requesting PODD with general interactive display.

A Four-Star Communication Partner might...

KNOWING THE SYSTEM

- Know how to troubleshoot some common issues on the TOBII (eg. No eye tracking, volume, wake it up!)
- Support person to prepare her hands for targeting on her PODD (eg. sensory feedback).
- Know how and where to add vocabulary in person's PODDs.

KNOWING THE COMMUNICATOR

- Verbally reference and assign meaning to some of the things person communicates, letting her know what you think she is saying (this includes her intent to go places).
- Model "Hey! I have something to say" when you speak to or near person.
- Encourage continuation of turns in communication.

KNOWING HOW TO MODEL

- Model a variety of pragmatic functions such as:
 - greetings/farewells
 - making requests
 - giving opinions
 - asking questions
 - making choices
 - sharing ideas
 - using manners
- Model a range of vocabulary.
- Model across different contexts.

A Five-Star Communication Partner might...

KNOWING THE SYSTEM

- Know how to adjust dwell time if required and to collect data within TOBI.
- Know who to contact in the case of maintenance requirements for PODD and/or mounts.
- Know how to create topic pages and to add additional pages as required to support person's access to vocabulary.

KNOWING THE COMMUNICATOR

- Support shaping of voice to make a "hey" sound to initiate communication.
- Respond to the intent of the messages, not to the use of AAC (eg. not 'good talking').
- Scaffold attempts to communicate with AAC, through cues and prompts (using least-most hierarchy).

KNOWING HOW TO MODEL

- Model a large variety of pragmatic functions such as:
 - self-talk
 - telling jokes
 - repairing breakdowns
- Respond to what was 'said' by recasting person's communications
 - Extend (include more info)
 - Expand (add/change words to improve grammar)
- Model using eye gaze occasionally.