

20 Ways to Increase Classroom Participation

1.

Create a positive communication environment. Provide wait time. Accept all forms of communication. Provide support when needed. We all need support when learning something new.

2.

Support social interaction with peers by adding photographs to communication pages.

3.

Give your students with AAC devices at least one “communication job” every day. This gives them meaningful ways to use their device in the classroom and opportunities to practice skills.

4.

Support literacy and higher level language learning by exploring Core.



Hint:
Download lesson plans and activities from myDynaVox.

5.

Add new information often. Saying the same thing over and over gets old really quickly. Learn to edit a button. This allows you to add customized vocabulary to the device.

6.

Make sure the device is available at all times. The student may not need to use the device for every activity, but they should have access if they do.

7.

Use peers to gather “cool” vocabulary to program onto the Quick Phrases.

8.

Make a plan. If you don’t know when, where, why and how the device will be used, then it probably won’t be.

9.

Efficiently share pagesets with other members of the team and parents via myDynaVox.

10.

Use scripts to practice social skills.



11.

Remember that communication should be fun sometimes!

12.

Provide many, many opportunities to practice communication skills.

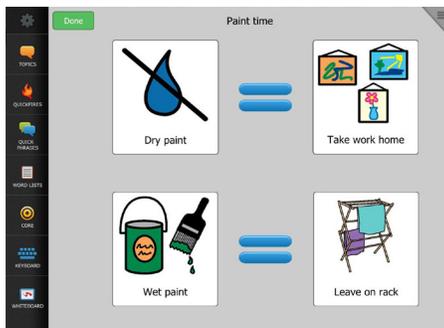
13.

Use your resources wisely. On myDynaVox, you can find things like:

- a. Lesson plans and therapy materials
- b. Training videos
- c. Research articles
- d. Evaluation tools

14.

Use visual supports (e.g., visual timer, stories, visual rules, etc.) on the device to encourage positive behavior.



15.

Take 5 minutes to review classroom activities and locate appropriate vocabulary on their device before initiating with you student. You need to know where the words are in the device so that you can students if they get stuck.

16.

Use holiday (and seasonal) Topics to allow student to participate in holiday celebrations.

17.

Use the device keyboards to support written language... even scribbling! You can also print written work right from the student's device.

18.

Modify the existing classroom pages to meet your specific needs.

19.

Use Word Lists to provide vocabulary that will support the classroom curriculum.

20.

Go to myDynaVox and download the DynaVox Compass Editing Software onto your computer so that you can learn about and program when the student's device isn't available.

