

LANGUAGE: Using Cubes To Support Linguistic Skills (Musselwhite, 2011)

WHAT

Cubes are light tech supports that provide both visual supports and randomization. They are great for supporting a wide range of language skills.

Light Tech: Cubes

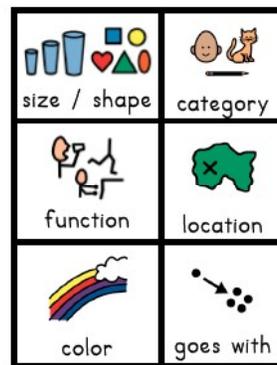
Make your own, using the pattern at the end of this Tip, or use a ready-made cube such as the one pictured at the right, from Augmentative Resources:

<http://www.augresources.com/vindex.html>



Using Cubes to Support Linguistic Skills

Category Learning. The icons shown in this graphic would be placed on a cube to help students call out category items, or help students who use an AAC device locate those categories on their device. Category Call-Out is a great 'sponge activity' to fill an extra 2 - 5 minutes between activities.



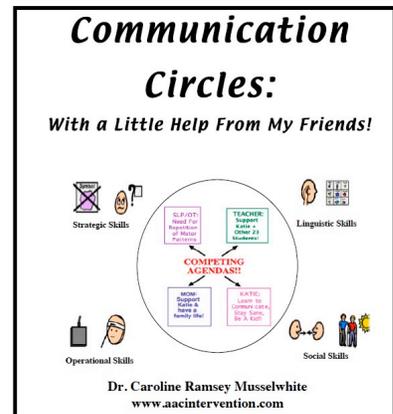
Question Starters. Roll a question word and have one student ask a question, with other students responding. This is particularly helpful for students who use AAC devices. Again, this makes a great sponge activity. (Note: These Minspeak™ icons are used with Unity™ software on devices from the Prentke Romich Co.)



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Silly Sentences. Musselwhite (2008) suggests a number of activities for a Communication Circle. One of these activities is 'silly sentences'. Students use two cubes to roll a pronoun and a helping verb. The student using AAC must use the device to start the sentence, which is completed by peers. Examples:

- Can I . . . eat fried worms?
- She will . . . kiss Danny!
- He might . . . turn backflips!



Cubes + Apps - Asking Questions: See the reviews of apps at SpedApps 2 for combining apps and cubes! For example, *Fortuneball* or *Magic Toilet* link well to use of cubes to promote asking questions and getting fun responses!!

<http://spedapps2.wikispaces.com/Asking+Questions>



Cubes + Apps - Precision Teaching: I was amazed at the increased speed of response for combining words on an AAC device, for both the target student and the peers in her Communication Circle. The App used was *Giant Timer*.

<http://spedapps2.wikispaces.com/Grammar+-+Syntax>



Resources & References

Musselwhite, C. (2008). *Communication Circles: With a little help from my friends*. Litchfield Park, AZ: AAC Intervention www.aacintervention.com

