

Smart Charts

SMART CHARTS! Supporting Students . . . And Staff!

Cheat sheets??? NO! Smart Charts!

WHAT AND WHY: Smart charts are a way for communication partners to help support students who use AAC in quickly finding words on their devices.

They can make a HUGE difference, so take the time to make one! Following are a few samples of smart charts that we have used.

Vocabulary Set: Wish Poem

Krista was working on a vocabulary set that included:

- Adverbs: really, very, so
- Adjectives: rich, cool, strong, crazy, funny, silly, sweet
- Collocations: I wish; I could
- Negation: not
- Conjunction: but

We made a smart chart (shown on right) and both practiced. I modeled a simple poem (see chart), then she continued to practice. After 15 minutes, she was instructed to write her own poem on her device and e-mail it to me. The result is shown below. While practicing for this poem, she learned words that became part of her ongoing vocabulary.

Wish Poem Icon Sequences

wish		VERB	
I could	I	VERB	
be		VERB	
really		ADV	
very	ADV		
so	ADV		
strong		ADJ	
rich		ADJ	
cool		ADJ	
funny		ADJ	
sweet		ADJ	
crazy		ADJ	
silly		ADJ	
but	CONJ		
not			

Sample Wish Poem

I wish I could be stronger
I wish I could be really cool
I wish I could be so rich
I wish I could be very silly,
But not crazy.

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Krista's Wish Poem



Writing Sample:

***I wish I could be stronger
I wish I could be very funny
I wish I could be very silly
I wish I could be so rich
krista***



Creating Smart Chart for PRC Devices. Smart Charts can be quickly created for all of the devices from the Prentke Romich Company, using the free software downloads.

www.prentrom.com/download/pass

Writing Sample:

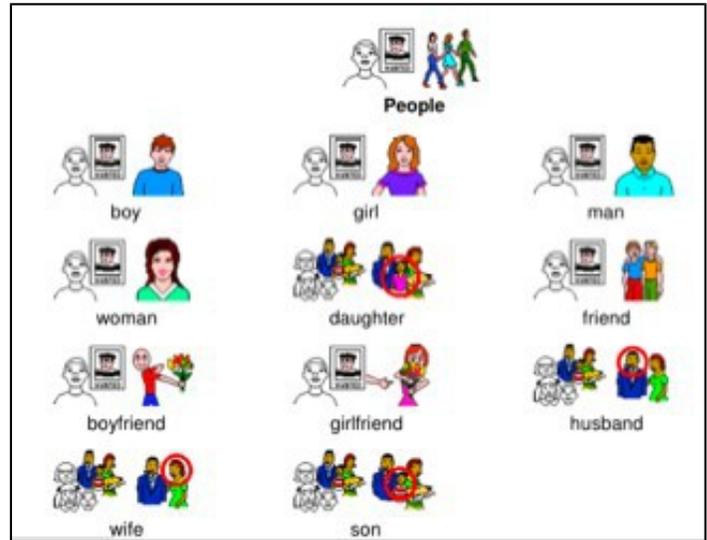
***I wish I could be stronger
I wish I could be very funny
I wish I could be very silly
I wish I could be so rich
krista***

Dr. Caroline Rams

www.prentrom.com

Smart Charts

Rebecca's class was studying family relationships and developing family trees. We made a smart chart so she could see the patterns for finding labels for family members (brother, sister, aunt, etc), as compared to non-family people (boy, woman, girlfriend. We attached the Smart Chart to her communication device using a 'report cover spine' (the plastic spine that accompanies covers for student reports – purchased at office supply stores – purchased at office supply stores). The 3-inch spine was affixed with Velcro.

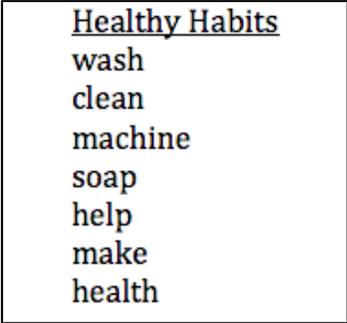


Selecting Vocabulary For Smart Charts

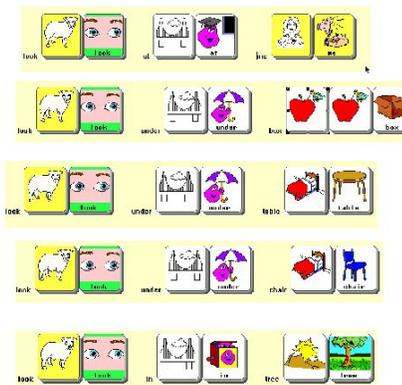
How do you decide which vocabulary to target? In the samples above, weekly vocabulary was selected to meet student needs. For example, we were trying to expand Krista's vocabulary, especially with regard to adverbs and adjectives. The wish poem was simply a vehicle for practicing that vocabulary. Here are two other samples.

Supporting Course Content.

Every Monday, Jen (the teacher) & Gail (the SLP) select a list of words to support the weekly course of study. Gail then creates a Smart Chart which is printed for students who use the related communication devices. Throughout the week the teacher, SLP, aides, and peer tutors use the smart chart to model course language.



Sample Treasure Hunt Clues



Wagner, Musselwhite, & Odom, Out & About CD, © 2005
www.prent-rom.com or www.aacintention.com

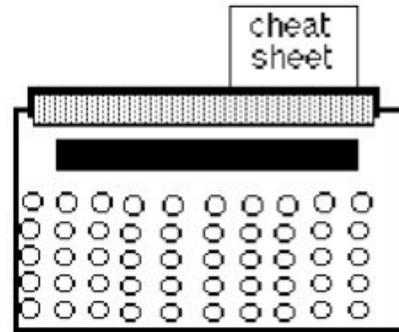
habits

Practicing Prepositions & More – Scavenger Hunts!

Wagner, Musselwhite, & Odom (2005, *Communication Circles CD*) show a set of Smart Charts for engaging in interactive treasure hunts, shown on the left.

Smart Charts

Affix the Smart Chart to a Communication Device: You can attach the Smart Chart to a student's communication device using a 'report cover spine' (the plastic spine that accompanies covers for student reports – purchased at office supply stores). The 3-inch spine is affixed with Velcro, and Smart Charts are changed out every week or two.



REMEMBER! Smart Charts might take a few minutes to create, but they can provide hours of communication support for both people who use AAC and their partners!