

COMMUNICATION BOOKS

WHAT IS IT?

A communication book is a visual system which supports expressive communication (getting your message across). The child points to photos/symbols to support communication (with or without speaking alongside).



HOW IS IT FACILITATED?

The adult also points to the book when they speak:

- This supports the pupil's understanding of what is being said
- It also encourages them to do the same when they speak

The child will learn the meaning of symbols through trial and error as the adult will respond to what they have pointed to even if they are not sure that is what they meant. This will help them to learn the meaning of the symbol for next time.

If the child is unable to use spoken language, the adult speaks the words as the child points (whilst encouraging the child to make attempts by leaving gaps). If the child speaks alongside pointing, the adult repeats back the sentence/words, allowing opportunities to model the correct speech sounds/grammar and expand their sentences.

WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

A communication book may be suitable for children with:

- Unclear speech sounds
- Limited or no spoken language
- Word finding difficulties
- Social communication difficulties, as it may help with initiating communication or requesting
- Stress/anxiety

There are different types of communication books used at Addington, including PODD books. They vary by size, organisation of vocabulary and number of symbols to a page. Children are assessed by the SLT team before a decision is made regarding which book is most suitable.

