

Theme & Clarification Boards

The Internet is a wonderful resource for finding a variety of theme boards with picture symbols that can support a child in sharing a message during a specific activity or environment. Having a theme-based communication board may be beneficial if a child has verbal skills, but extra support is needed sharing a message in an environment where there may be peers or other people outside their family members who do not understand them. For example:

- Going to a birthday party
- Ordering at a restaurant
- Talking at the doctor's office or during a hospital stay
- Sharing what they did on the weekend or at school (when the context is unclear)
- Participating socially or making choices at Brownies, Scouts, music lessons or swimming

Speaking of Speech

http://www.speakingofspeech.com/AugCom_Materials.html

This website is dedicated to sharing resources to support language and communication development. The "AAC Materials" folder of the "Materials Exchange" folder has PDF files to print easily.

Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/communication-boards/>

Not only is Pinterest helpful for recipes, but there are a lot of families, clinicians and parents who are "pinning" helpful Alternative and Augmentative (AAC) resources. Consider searching with words such as: AAC, Alternative and Augmentative Communication, communication board and the theme you are looking for (e.g. "birthday party").

Boardmaker Online Community

<https://boardmakeronline.com/Activities/CommunityActivities>

For those who have access to Boardmaker, you can save, print, or alter pre-made communication theme boards. Parents or professionals who do not have a paid subscription or computer program can save and print templates as pictures.

Amy's Speech & Language Therapy Resources

<http://www.amyspeechlanguagetherapy.com/communication-boards.html>

Amy's site has a variety of resources for kids and adults with vocabulary related to home, feelings, medical appointment, and play-based theme boards.

Although these websites may not allow you to customize the words or phrases, they are a great place to start in using picture symbols. If your child is using a variety of symbols purposefully, they may also benefit from *Core Vocabulary* to say exactly what they want rather than pre-set phrases. To learn more about *Core*, how you might be able to create your own symbols, or any other questions related to AAC, theme boards, and clarification strategies, please contact us at acs@tvcc.on.ca