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What Can I Say?

Some ideas for messages that can be used on a single message voice output device.

Steckle & Wye (July 2000)

This booklet contains a variety of suggestions for individual messages, which may be recorded onto a single message device.

This is not an exhaustive list and there are many other messages that could be good to try.

When deciding upon a message to record, ask yourself these questions:

If this was the only thing I could say:

- 1. Would I find this message fun, interesting or useful?
- 2. Would I be able to use this message more than once?
- 3. Is it worth the effort to hit the switch to activate the message for the result received? (What's in it for me?)
- 4. Could I make this message understood in a faster or more effective way? (e.g. by eye pointing or vocalizing?)

Use this space to keep a record of the other messages that you have found useful.

That's enough...

"I'm finished" "I'm all done" "Leave me alone" "I want something else" (a different toy)

Fun and Games...

"My turn" "Your turn" "Do it again" "Tickle me" "Give me a hug!" "More please!" "I'm bored!" "That's silly" "Tell me a joke" "Ready, et, go" Duck, duck, "Goose" "Red light, green light"

Drama...

Taking part in a drama activity within the classroom. Give responsibility for a line in a play, adding sound effects, etc.

Art class...

If you are helping somebody create a picture, they can tell you if something else needs to be added. "Paint more" "More colors" "Another paper"

"What can I say?

Getting to know you...

"Hello" "Hi, how are you?" "How's it going?" "Any news?" "What's new?" "Tell me the gossip!"

Seasons Greetings...

Messages specific to a time of the year.

"Merry Christmas" "Happy Holidays" "Boo! Happy Halloween!" "Have a Happy Easter" "Happy Hanukkah" "Happy Birthday" "Trick or Treat"

Come talk to me...

Messages to get attention or start a conversation.

"Come and talk to me" "I have something for you" "Can you please come here" "Guess what I've got in my bag"

Making Music...

Taking part in songs and rhymes.

Think of songs or rhymes that have repeated lines. You can sing the rest of the song.

"Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells" "Hickory Dickory Dock" "This Little Piggy" Old MacDonald had a farm, "ee I ee I o" "Deedle, deedle dumpling" my son John "Polly put the kettle on" The wheels on the bus" "Happy Birthday" Pat-a-cake, Pat-a-cake" "Round & round the garden"

Think of rhymes and songs where the last line can be added to the tape. A favourite line from any song can be recorded.

Story time...

Messages to ask for more story or to add to a story.

"Turn the page." "What happens next?" "Tell me more!" "Read it again" "Read more" "I wonder what will happen next...."

Change places, positions...

"(I want) out of my chair" "I need the bathroom"

Books with repetitive lines include:

"Me Too" by Mercer Mayer "Merry Christmas Mom & Dad" by Mercer Mayer "All By Myself" by Mercer Mayer "Just Grandma and Me" by Mercer Mayer "Baby Sister Says No" by Mercer Mayer "When I get Bigger" by Mercer Mayer "Just Go to Bed" by Mercer Mayer "I'm a Little Mouse" by Noella and David Carter "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?" by Bill Martin Jr. "If the Dinosaurs Came Back" by Bernard Most "The Great Big Enormous Turnip" by Alexei Tolstoy "Green Eggs & Ham" by Dr. Seuss "Nothing Else but Yams for Supper" by Joan Buchanan "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Cowle "The Very Grumpy Ladybug" by Eric Cowle "Mortimer" by Robert Munsch "50 Below O" by Robert Munsch "I have to Go" by Robert Munsch

Getting what you want... (and creating a reaction)

Messages to indicate needs and wants

"More please!" "Do it again!" "Bug off!" "I need help" "Talk to me!"