

# Core Vocabulary

## What is core vocabulary?

- Relatively small number of words that constitute the vast majority of what is said in normal communication.
- Messages commonly used by a variety of individuals that occur very frequently
- Determined by analysis of operationally and socially competent people who use AAC
- With a few hundred words, a person can say over 80% of what is needed (Vanderheiden & Kelso, 1987)

## High frequency words have two components:

**General core vocabulary** - high frequency words that are of general conversational use (e.g., pronouns, articles, and prepositions)

**Personal core vocabulary** - words frequently used by a particular individual that are not frequently used by others (e.g., names of people and places)

### Consistent across:

- Population (toddlers/preschoolers, adolescents, adults, elderly, people who use AAC)
- Environments (home, restaurants, malls, churches, hospital)
- Topics (work, food, family life, gossip, education)
- Activities (talking on the phone, eating, shopping, playing games, hobbies)

## Top 30 core vocabulary words that everyone should have on his or her communication display:

all done / finished	all gone / gone	bad
different	good	more
what	not / don't	that
this	I / name	it
you / your	again	ready
do / does / did	help	look / see
stop	want	big
little	away	come
drink	eat	get
give	go	like

\* Information gathered from the work of Gail M. Van Tatenhove  
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