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### LITERACY DEFINED

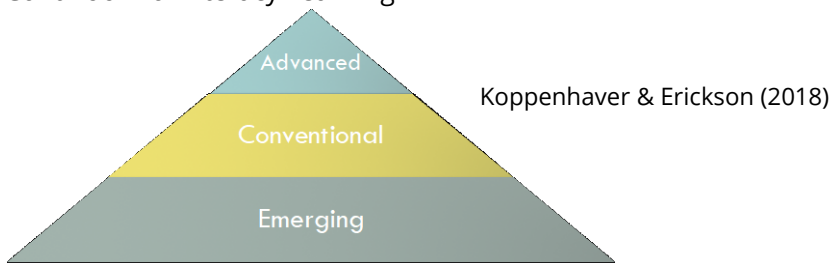
- “Teaching literacy is the single most empowering thing we can do for individuals who use AAC” (Lindsay, 1989)
- 90% of people using AAC enter adulthood without acquiring functional literacy skills (Foley & Wolter, 2010)

### EMERGENT LITERACY: DEVELOPMENTAL PERSPECTIVE

- Reading, Writing, Speaking, & Listening happen concurrently and interrelatedly, not sequentially (Koppenhaver et. al, 1991).
- Literacy is a continuum that starts at birth (Koppenhaver et. al, 1991).
- Chall’s Six Stages of Reading Development  
<https://www.theliteracybug.com/stages-of-literacy/>
- Emergent literacy may not look like typical reading and writing.
- Literacy is learned through observation and interaction with others and reading materials.
- It is fostered through positive, meaningful, and functional activities (Koppenhaver et. al, 1991).

### FOSTERING EMERGENT LITERACY WITH AAC

- Continuum of Literacy Learning



- A person is in the emergent category if you answer “no” to one or more of the following:
  - Does he/she know all the letters?
  - Is he/she actively engaged in shared reading?
  - Does he/she have a consistent means of communication and/or interaction?
  - Does he/she understand that writing involves letters/words?

### 1) Provide Access to an AAC System with Core

What is core vocabulary and why is it important to literacy development?

- It makes up 80% of our spoken language. Banajee, DiCarlo, & Buras-Stricklin (2003) found that there were 26 words that composed 96% of what children in an early childhood setting were saying.
- It has a large overlap with sight words.

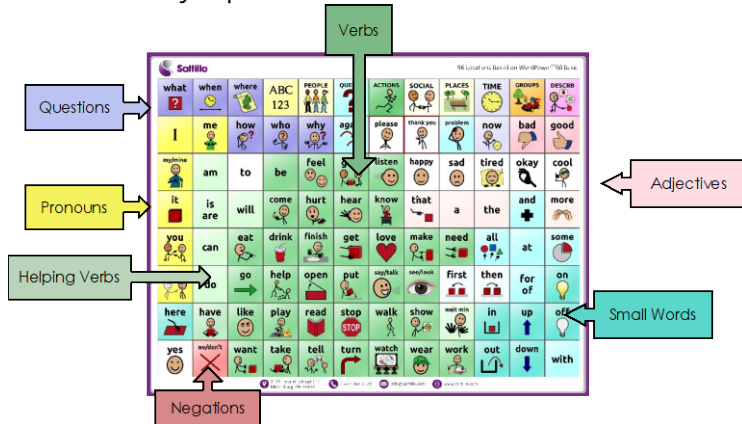
**Dutch Pre-Primer Word List (40 words)**

|      |       |        |      |        |
|------|-------|--------|------|--------|
| A    | Find  | Is     | Not  | Three  |
| And  | For   | It     | One  | To     |
| Away | Funny | Jump   | Play | Two    |
| Big  | Go    | Little | Red  | Up     |
| Blue | Help  | Look   | Run  | We     |
| Can  | Here  | Make   | Said | Where  |
| Come | I     | Me     | See  | Yellow |
| Down | In    | My     | The  | You    |



Beck, Mckeown, & Kucan (2002)

How is core vocabulary represented in WordPower?



Labels in diagram: Questions, Pronouns, Helping Verbs, Negations, Verbs, Adjectives, Small Words.

### 2) Engage in Shared Reading

- Shared Reading is the interaction that occurs when a child and adult look at or read a book together (Ezell & Justice, 2005).
- Benefits of shared reading:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Actively participate in reading                          | Recognize letters and sounds in the context of the words of the story |
| Learn to predict how a story will progress               | Understand concepts of the printed word                               |
| Understand that illustrations can help construct meaning | Use structural and visual cues to aid them in the reading process     |
| Increase and develop new vocabulary                      | Sequence story events   |
| Discover and implement reading strategies                |   |

- Video Examples with AAC  
<http://bit.ly/ReadingWP60>  
<http://bit.ly/kimrankin>  
<https://youtu.be/qTuRjwXGcj8>

3) Engage in Early Writing

- What is early writing?
  - Exploring writing tools (e.g., mouthing, holding)
  - Random scribbling
  - Scribbling with letter like forms.
  - Drawing simple pictures that have meaning to the child.
  - Using print to make signs, labels, etc.
  - Using many letter-like forms
  - Using Written words
  - Spelling phonetically
  - Spelling conventionally
  - <https://ldaamerica.org/early-writing-why-squiggles-are-important/>
- Benefits of early writing
- Getting Started: something to write on, write with, write about
- Use an Alternative Pencil: “anything that provides a person with access to all 26 letters of the alphabet (Hanser, 2009)
  - Learn more: <http://alternativepencils.weebly.com/>  
<http://literacyforallinstruction.ca/alternative-pencils-2/>
  - Watch in action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNhGRRq8TpM&t=107s>
- Use Save Message on Stories & Scripts as a writing tool  
<https://youtu.be/L6YWLIEXwug>
- Create a button to take a photo via “Take Photo” button action  
<https://youtu.be/wo2tDuLHmsc>
- Create opportunities to write
 

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Sign in/out of school                                 | Make Classroom signs        |
| Write a journal entry in response to a daily question | Write Books                 |
| Make Christmas/Birthday list                          | Make Grocery/To Do lists    |
| Sign name on thank you Cards                          | Write text for remnant book |
| Compose Emails/Text messages                          | Write comic strip captions  |
|   | Sign up for daily jobs      |
- Provide instructional Feedback (Hanser, 2014), e.g., “You wrote a lot of letters. This is how I write letters too.”
- Predictable Chart Writing: “a fun, easy, shared writing activity that supports emergent and conventional writers and readers” (Hanser, 2005).

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><a href="http://predictablechartwriting.weebly.com/">http://predictablechartwriting.weebly.com/</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write the Chart</li> <li>2. Reread/work with Chart</li> <li>3. Work with cut-up sentence strips</li> <li>4. Be the sentence</li> <li>5. Make the book!</li> </ol> |  |
|--|--|

#### 4) Letter Sounds & Phonological Awareness

- People who use AAC can learn letter-sound correspondence. The time to acquire will vary based on internal and external factors.
- Suggestions for considerations Light & McNaughton (2009) cited in Beukelman & Mirenda (2013)
  - Teach one letter sound at a time
  - Teach letter sounds first, letter names later.
  - Suggested order for introduction:
    - a, m, t, p, o, n, c, d, u, s, g, h, i, f, b, l, e, r, w, k, x, v, y, z, j, q
- Phonics Page/Keyboard on AAC System



#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Product & Implementation Webinars: <https://saltillo.com/webinars>
- Video Tutorials: <https://saltillo.com/videos/>
- Implementation Ideas and Supports: <https://saltillo.com/implementation>

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# AAC: Fostering Emergent Writing

## Outline – Resources – Notes