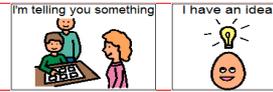


This week's PODD communication focus...

“I have an idea...”



- Being a competent communicator means your child must learn to communicate for ALL the purposes they wish to – so not only do we want to teach your child to comment and ask questions, we want to teach them that they can also be proactive individuals, coming up with new ideas and making suggestions to those around them. **Your child's PODD allows them to make suggestions using the 'I have an idea' branch starter.**

“A child who uses speech will independently select the words she wishes to use from the vast array of words she hears/sees used everyday. A child who uses AAC will independently select the words she wishes to use from the vocabulary other people have chosen to model and, for aided symbols, made available for her to use.” (Porter & Kirkland, 1995, p.93-94)

- In order for your child to begin saying 'I have an idea', they must first learn that they CAN have ideas and then HOW they can express these ideas using language. Your child will require frequent models of others saying 'I have an idea' and sharing different ideas with others around them.
- Ideas can be about absolutely anything! The 'I have an idea' branch starter would usually lead you to the categories pages in your child's PODD book. From here you can go to whichever categories you need to express your idea – there is no right or wrong!
- The way to access the 'I have an idea' branch starter varies somewhat between different types of PODD books. You should be able to access it in one of the following ways:
 - I have an idea (go to categories)
 - I'm telling you something – I have an idea (go to categories)
 - More to say – I have an idea (go to categories)
 - More to say – I'm telling you something – I have an idea (go to categories)
- Here are some examples to get you started:
 - “I have an idea – places – go – shops”
 - “I have an idea – places – go – outside – play”
 - “I have an idea – activities – book, story – read”
 - “I have an idea – activities – rest”
 - “I have an idea – house and garden – go – bedroom – bed”
 - “I have an idea – places – visit – grandma – go to categories – days and times – tomorrow”
 - “I have an idea – actions – buy – go to categories – descriptions – new – go to categories – clothes – shoes” (in some PODD books, you may not need to go to categories each time as the words 'buy' and 'new' might also be in the clothes categories so you can go straight there).
- Remember to share ideas with other family members using the PODD book as well. This is a great way for other family members to become familiar with how to use the PODD as well as for your child to see it used with others.