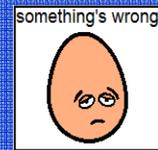


This week's PODD communication focus...

Expressing emotion or need for assistance: 'Something's wrong...'



"All children require the creation of an aided language learning environment with interactive use of a child's AAC system by others in their daily environments. The aim is to create a language learning environment with more balance in the modes of communication used for receptive input and those the child is learning to expressively use." (Porter, 2007, p. 5)

- Your child's PODD is a key component of their 'aided language learning environment' –it is a way of ensuring that they have enough vocabulary to communicate for a whole variety of purposes in all situations they encounter. In order for your child to learn to use this mode of communication expressively, we must all use it in their daily environment for genuine communicative purposes. Included in these purposes are *expressing emotions and/or a need for help*. One of the ways to communicate these types of messages using PODD is to use the 'something's wrong' branch starter.
- It is imperative that your child learns to tell people when something is wrong. Whilst you may be an expert in knowing what your child needs and what might be upsetting them, your child encounters others who don't have this same intuitive knowledge. By allowing your child the opportunities to tell you what is wrong using their PODD communication book, you are empowering them and teaching them to do the same with other people in their environments, promoting a problem-solving, active personality.
- The more you model the use of 'something's wrong' in genuine situations, the more chance your child has to learn the types of vocabulary they can use to convey this themselves.** You can model 'something's wrong' in a variety of contexts across the day. For example, you may feel tired after a busy day and model 'something's wrong – tired', either to your child or to another family member. You may also model this when you notice that your child is tired. You could model 'something's wrong – frustrated' when you see your child is having difficulties. Before getting yourself a drink, you could model 'something's wrong – thirsty'.
- Try to think of situations when you could say the following and really focus on using these opportunities, as well as others, throughout the week:

"Something's wrong – hurt, sore, pain"	"Something's wrong – tired"
"Something's wrong – hungry"	"Something's wrong – grumpy"
"Something's wrong – hot"	"Something's wrong – I don't know what's wrong"

 Remember to restate your message in full after your model, eg. "'Something's wrong – tired', I'm so tired", "I can see you're having trouble with that, it looks like you are saying 'Something's wrong – frustrated' I'm frustrated, Mum'
- You can even try expanding your message to model what might help solve your problem, eg. "something's wrong – tired – go back to page 1/main page – (if using a PODD book then 'more to say') – I want – rest", or "something's wrong – hungry – go back to page 1/main page – (if using a PODD book then 'more to say') – I want – something to eat or drink – food".
- Remember to add other 'something's wrong' words to the blank cells and lists if words you want to model aren't in your child's PODD, or if common problems for them aren't there.