

Inclusive Education

Core Word Focus: Don't

Our next core word communication focus is the word **don't**. We use **don't** to express refusal, negation, or that something is unwanted. It is a powerful and important word for self-advocacy, allowing individuals to set boundaries and express preferences. However, **don't** can be challenging to teach in a way that remains positive and respectful. *It's important not to use **don't** to correct or restrict the child directly; instead, we want to keep the learning experience neutral or positive.*

The best ways to teach the meaning and use of **don't** are through interactions with another communication partner or by narrating books or videos. Modeling a real-time interaction between two adults, with the student observing but not personally involved, is very effective. Similarly, reading, or narrating stories or videos provides a natural and low-pressure way to model the word. When narrating to model the verb form **don't**, remember to preface each statement with phrases like "he says..." or "she says..." to clearly demonstrate its use.

Examples:

I **don't** know

Don't forget your backpack

I **don't** feel good

We **don't** want to have snack

I **don't** want that book

Don't help me!

Books

I **don't** want to be a frog by Devorah Petty

Pidgeon series by Mo Willems

Rock Stars **Don't** Nap

Don't Push the Button

Blue hat, green hat

Don't Say That Word

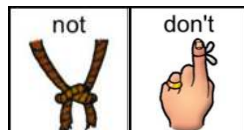
The Monster at the End of This Book

Don't put your finger in the Jelly, Nelly

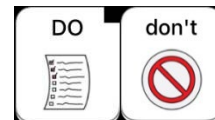
TOUCH CHAT



LAMP



SFY



BOOK CREATOR RESOURCES

Links to Online Resources



Simple LAMP Book



LAMP Sentence Strips

I don't want to go there



Don't leave me here



I don't know



We don't understand this



I don't feel good

