

Inclusive Education

Core Word Focus: NOT

Core words are the powerful, flexible words we use every day for most of our communication. A core word approach gives the AAC learner focused practice with these important words that will help them communicate effectively in many different situations for many different reasons. Our next core word focus is **not**.

Not is an incredibly powerful advocacy word. Kids need to be able to *decline* something (“that’s **not** the one I want”), *clarify* (“that’s **not** right” or “that’s **not** what I meant”), and to *share their opinion* (“I do **not** like it!” or “**not** good!”). When kids use these strong words, we need to hear their message and let them know we have understood. It’s ok if it’s necessary to tell them something is **not** possible to honour—most kids will accept that disappointment if they are confident, they have been heard and understood.

When you are reading books you will notice that you will often have to expand **n’t** to **not**. In reading—and in your everyday communication—expand the contraction to **not** this week because the emphasis is valuable. When we emphasize a word, we draw attention to it and through our focused emphasis we are giving them all the opportunity to absorb a word’s meaning. Our goal here is to give them access to a word to convey the meaning instead of having to resort to actions to decline, clarify or share their negative opinion about something.

Examples:

That’s **not** right.

Not good!

Not me!

I do **not** like it.

Not today.

That’s **not** fair!

I do **not** want some.

Not funny!

Not so fast.

It’s **not** mine.

Not yet.

It’s **not** your turn.

I am **not** mad.

It’s **not** so bad.

Not ready.

Not that one.

Not really.

It’s **not** time yet.

Books: Not a Box, Grumpy Monkey, But Not the Hippopotamus (and more), This is Not My Hat, Eddie the Elephant, Do Not Open This Book, It is Not Time for Sleeping, Not Just a Dot, Don’t Wake the Dragon, That’s Not My Unicorn, Do Not Lick This Book, Don’t Forget Dexter, We are going on a bear Hunt

Activities: treasure hunt (hide a ‘treasure’ and then find it in the room/school – model “**not** here”), Simplified variation of 20 Questions, guess what’s in the box (fill with objects of various textures) by feeling around for it (sample phrase, “it’s **not** that”).

TOUCH CHAT



LAMP



SFY



Not Sentence Strips for LAMP users

Not good



Not me



Not funny



Not ready



Not yet



Not that one



Not done

