

Modelling paper and power-based communication systems Trouble shooting

Modelling use of communication books, boards and devices is something which is really important to help children with accepting and using different communication systems.

It can sometimes be difficult to model systems with some children or young people, particularly when they are:

- Wanting to have possession of the system all the time
- Pushing the system away

Here are some ideas to try make modelling easier with children and their communication system:

- **Talk through where something is on the device** – modelling this if you can. For example, you could say – ‘you’re talking about your snack. We need to go to topics, food, snack’
- **Use a social story** – you can include times when adults may need to use the device or it needs to go away e.g. ‘grown-ups can show you where new words are’ or ‘when the battery is low, your device needs to go on charge. I can still use my communication book when my device is charging’
- **Model on paper-based resources** – have an extra copy for of a paper-based system which adults can use. You can print off key pages from a power-based communication device that you may use in an activity to be able to model more easily too.
- **Try using a consistent phrase before modelling** - e.g. “I’ve got something to show you,”

Identify a key person to build a sharing relationship with – start by one person building the sharing relationship with the child’s communication system. Add more people as trust and confidence grows.