

SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Core and Fringe Picture Communication Carrier

Description:

The Core and Fringe Picture* Communication Carrier is a portable waist display for CORE + Fringe vocabulary for communication. Personalized CORE + Fringe pictures can be inserted into provided vinyl pockets. The Core section of the Communication carrier accommodates letter size paper in landscape view. The Core and Fringe Picture Communication Carrier comes with an adjustable, soft, stretchy Velcro adjustable belt (one-size-fits all) and can be easily removed from the belt and reattached, as needed. It folds up to close during travel with waterproof black luggage fabric on outside.

Image:



[Purchasing Information](#)

Who Might Benefit?

Those who...

- Need symbol support to express or receive information.
- Need a means of transporting their communication supports to have them available at all times.
- Are learning to take responsibility for their own assistive technology/communication needs.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to...

- Communicate with partners in many locations, especially in those not suitable for a more complex communication system.
- Have a wide variety of communication symbols available at all times.
- Wear the Core and Fringe Picture Communication Carrier for easy access on the go.

Instructions for Use:

Environmental Considerations

- Easily use in almost any environment because of the small size, weight, and easy transportability.
- If this particular style of communication is selected, make sure it is available in all child's customary environments (e.g. home and school) to provide structure and

Adaptation Ideas:

Optional Additional Materials/Supplies

- Velcro
- Sheet protectors
- 3-ring binders with clear view covers
- Laminator and lamination sleeves
- Duct tape

routine, improve understanding, avoid frustration and offer opportunities to interact with others.

Positioning

- Use in most any position due to the size, portability, and minimal weight. It can be used on a table top, placed on the floor, positioned on a slant board, etc. A child could use it in positions such as sitting, standing, prone (Tummy Time position), supine (laying on their back), kneeling, etc. Provide at optimal viewing level and ensure it's within reach of the child.

Basic Play/Use

- Introduce with added symbol/visual support pages to the child and explain what you are going to be using it for.
- Be consistent in the use of visuals.
- Make Communicator accessible to everyone supporting the child (e.g. have a specific area for keeping it) and make sure everyone knows where it is.

Extended Play/Use

- Model use of The Core and Fringe Picture* Communication Carrier, especially in terms of locating fringe vocabulary appropriate to the communication requirements/setting.

Build It Up

- Edges could be built up or tabbed for easy gripping or to provide high contrast. Fringe pages could be tabbed.

Simplify It

- Start with only a few photos or visual symbols on each page based on child's ability to understand and select responses, adding more as needed.

Stabilize It

- Velcro to various surfaces in the environment as needed so that the communicator doesn't shift while the child is attempting to access it.

Add Sensory Cues

- Consider using high contrast visuals and/or contrasting background.
- Cut around the shapes of the visuals selected to be displayed and glue to high contrast background (ex: yellow or black paper).
- Tab/color code pages to help child locate what they want to say.

Alternative Uses

- Use to display schedules, task sequences, etc.

DIY Alternatives

- Purchase double sided trading card collector sleeves (9 pockets to standard notebook sized sheets) and insert visuals into pockets. Place sheets in a standard 3 ring binder.
- Create a wearable communication notebook from a 3-ring binder (3-ring binders come in a variety of sizes) and add a carrying strap.
 - Cut and laminate various colored tabbed file folders
 - Add strips of Velcro for attaching visuals

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Punch holes in pages and insert into notebooks○ Label tabs |
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Additional Considerations:

- Not all children may tolerate wearing a communication support around their waist. The child and their communication partners should know how to fasten and unfasten the belt to remove The Core and Fringe Picture Communication Carrier if using the wearable option.

Resources:

- [How to create low tech communication pictures.](#)
- [Examples of good high contrast color schemes for low vision and why they are important.](#)
- YouTube video: [Introduction to Core and Fringe Vocabulary](#)

Note: Research has shown that early use of a communication device does not impact a child's ability to develop oral speech later and will actually often help to enhance development of oral speech.

See: [Beyond Spoken Words :Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(AAC\).](#)