

Table 5.3. Examples of no- and low-tech AT tools for communication and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) intervention

AT tool	Features	Purpose	Example of implementation	Examples/source
Communication photographs	Individual photographs Direct select to point to or handle photographs Eye gaze when mounted on clear plastic eye-gaze tool	Includes individual photographs of child's familiar receptive vocabulary and novel words Links to objects in environment to build communicative intent	Select appropriate number and size of photographs for individual child Position photograph in front of object to link symbol to object	Digital photographs of actual items, people, actions, places, and feelings of child's environment Digital camera Color printer
Communication book	Photograph book Clear pages Velcro backing on photographs Adult assists in selecting photographs	Photograph communication aids in individual photograph format or individual photographs with digital camera	Provide photograph in single or choice formats to support making the transition to symbolic language	Inexpensive photograph album with soft Velcro on each page to store photographs of child's relevant vocabulary
Visual scene	Large photograph of familiar environment Access with pointing or eye gaze Individual vocabulary on small, laminated squares with Velcro backing	Depicts relevant actions, people, and interactions as context to build vocabulary beyond nouns Individual vocabulary photographs/icons can be placed on photograph to "contextualize" vocabulary of nouns, actions, people, feelings, and attributes	Introduce photograph prior to activity Preview what the child will see, do, and experience Review after activity to create a "story" about the activity Cover elements that are relevant for child—who, what, where, how, why, and feelings	Digital photograph printed in page size Page protector or laminated Small photographs mounted on sticky-back foam and covered with contact paper or laminated Velcro backing on photographs
Communication icons with printed label	Individual icons on single cards/laminated Direct select to point or handle Eye gaze when mounted on clear plastic with Velcro backing	Represents objects, actions, people, and other vocabulary in higher level of symbolic representation	Select appropriate number and size of icon cards for individual child Position photograph in front of object to link symbol to object	Boardmaker Plus from DynaVox (\$300) Overboard from Gus, Inc. (\$200) Symbol Stix from Symbol Stix (\$100 yearly subscription)
Activity board	Various sizes and number of photographs/icons on board Direct access, eye gaze, or partner-assisted scanning	Show steps of activities in sequence with core words in same place on repeated boards Color code for core and activity or "fringe" vocabulary	Adult uses aided language stimulation (ALS) to highlight words, waits for child's response to support comprehension and expressive language	Unity Symbols from Prentke Romich (\$50) Pogo Boards from Talk to me Technologies (\$70) Boardmaker Software
Storyboard/song board	Various sizes and number of photographs/icons on board to show key concepts in song or story Direct access, eye gaze, or partner-assisted scanning	Photograph/picture icon display with concepts/words from song or story	Adult highlights words in song or story using ALS to support comprehension and expressive language	Teacher-made materials Making Language Visible CD from Creative Communicating (\$50)
Clock scanning communicators	Switch operation with "clock" face and choice of objects, photographs, and icons Scanning access with switch activation	Provides visual display of communication choices on clear plastic clock face Icons/objects can be changed Method for assessment and learning step scanning	Place selected object/photographs/icons on clock face as appropriate for individual child's needs and selected activity	Clock communicators available from Enablemart (\$115–\$130)