# This week's PODD communication focus…

## Requesting actions: 'Let's go…'

One of the most powerful modelling strategies you can use is to <u>map language onto your child's actions or perceived intent</u>. Of course, this is not to say that we can ever truly predict what someone is going to say – but sometimes your child's body language, eye gaze and gestures give a very clear communicative message – one such example is when your child wants to <u>go somewhere</u>! A tug of your arm or leg, staring longingly at the door or out of the window, or simply grabbing your keys and heading for the door, these are all times when you can model, "**Let's go**…" in their PODD communication book. Many children I know get really excited about going out, so this is also a very engaging interaction in which you can model their PODD language.

- The 'Let's go' branch starter in PODD leads to the 'places' category. By getting there via this *branch starter* rather than through a category index, it also makes it clear that the AAC user is *requesting* this action, rather than, for example, talking about something that has already happened.

- Given that we rarely stay in one place all day, 'Let's go' is an excellent pathway to begin using to start to embed a little bit of modelling all day every day, and develop your fluency with PODD. Have a go at these:

  o When you think your child wants to play outside, '**Let's go** – **outside** – **garden**'
  o When you are about to help your child go to the bathroom for their bath, you could say, '**Let's go** – **somewhere in the house** – **bathroom** – **bath**'
  o Before a quick trip to the supermarket for some groceries, '**Let's go** – **shops** – **supermarket**'
  o When it's time for bed, '**Let's go** – **somewhere in the house** – **bedroom** – **bed**'
  o When you are about to take your child to a hospital appointment, '**Let's go** – (turn page) – **hospital**'
  o When you are planning to help your child move from their wheelchair to the floor, '**Let's go** – **somewhere in the house** – (turn page) – **floor**'
  o When you are about to drive your child to school, '**Let's go** – (for a) **drive** – **in the car** – (to) **school**'

- You will notice that some of these examples will help you become familiar with other parts of your child's PODD, such as the 'house and garden' category. Take the time to explore how you can use this vocabulary to talk about other places you go – perhaps out on the verandah, to the outside rubbish bin, or to the washing line.

And of course, since you'll be modelling about where you are going, this will also serve as a perfect reminder of our very first PODD Communication Focus - ensuring your child's PODD is with them, out, and where possible, visible to them, at all times!

Porter, G. (2007). *Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display Communication Books: Introductory Workshop*. Melb: Cerebral Palsy Education Centre.

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