



## Monthly Words for the Core Vocabulary Classroom

Starter Core Vocabulary Targets are based on the Project-Core Universal Core Word List developed at The Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This year long progression ensures that the students are exposed to the first 36 core words. *Students may be ready to add additional words to their repertoire so you may take a look at A Year of Core below.* This list is not meant to be comprehensive. It is a starting point for most students. Core words should be targeted for listening, communicating/speaking, reading and writing.

Month	Core Words					Fringe Word Categories
August	stop	go	can	I		school supplies, rules & safety
September	he	she	help	do	you	community helpers
October	on	put	some	all		clothes, candy
November	good	like	make	more		food
December	get	open	want	who		family
January	not	what				health/illness, body
February	why	he	she	I	you	feelings, emotions
March	different	look	same	that		weather & changes
April	up	in	when			physical science-growing, plants/animals
May	where	it	here	finished		geography/landforms, places
June	Summer Break!					

### Getting Started:

Week 1-3: Introduction of new core words in daily activities and theme-based activities

Week 4: Review for all previously learned core words

### Homework ([DTA Schools Members](#)):

Send home the core word calendar for practice. Share core word books, songs and resources from our "DTA To The Core" Google Classroom.

### Quick Practice Ideas:

Post the Core Word Calendar on the wall to remind you of an activity you can use during down time.

### Engineer Your Classroom/Home:

Print out the symbols you are targeting for the month and display them in your space. Pay attention to location and try to put your symbols in places they may naturally be useful, for example "GO" might be beside the door! You can download the monthly symbols on each month's "All Year Core & More" Page.





## Core Words to Target for Communication and Language Development:

[Project Core](#), a Stepping-Up Technology Implementation Grant directed by the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill; recommends core sight words are specifically chosen based on order of frequency and applicability to the school setting. This is a great list to start with! You'll see our All Year Core and More follows this word list.

Like	Want	Get	Make	Good	More
Not	Go	Look	Turn	Help	Different
I	He	Open	Do	Put	Same
You	She	That	Up	All	Some
It	Here	In	On	Can	Finished
Where	What	Why	Who	When	Stop

If your student is non-speaking and does not have a communication system, make sure s/he has access to a comprehensive set of communication symbols. You can download and use the DTA AAC Flipbook 2.0 (Light Tech AAC page on the DTA Schools website) and the core word symbols from Project-Core.com. The word list on this document matches the symbols and messages available in the DTA AAC Flipbook 2.0.

*For all students, you will want to consider completing a full AAC evaluation for a more advanced system. DTA Schools members can access our on site services or consult services remotely to complete a more extensive assessment.*

Carole Zangari, developer of [PrAACtical AAC](#), a comprehensive AAC focused resource website, recommends the following core word list for her "[Year Of Core](#)." This list addresses a more expanded set of core words which we will be integrating into our website supports this year. Visit [PrAACtical AAC](#) for more resources!

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
again	again	away	big	all	after	and	any	almost	another	body	ask
all gone/all done	eat	bad	busy	down	am/is/be	before	bring	call	change	dress	favorite
different	get	come	do	good	because	color	day	listen	every	full	goodbye
help	go	good	drink	little	can	find	fall	name	for	guess	hear
mine	happy	it	feel	my	cold	is	give	nice	idea	hi	of
more	here	make	he	question	fast	later	hot	over	pretty	live	please
not/don't	I/me	now	in	sad	fun	love	job	place	say	maybe	silly
stop	like	off	make	she	have	much	know	sit	start	one	surprise
that	on	read	out	turn	hungry	ready	other	take	thank you	ride	these
want	play	there	some	up	let/let's	same	sick	time	think	tired	use
what	put	thing	tell	who	need	they	sorry	we	try	very	way
you	this	where	who	why	talk	with	together	write	under	walk	work

## TARGET PRESTORED PHRASES



Needs	Greetings	Feelings	Communication Repairs	Questions
bathroom	hi	like	What did you say?	question
hungry	by	don't like	Did you understand?	who
thirsty	How are you?	happy	Wait a minute.	What did you say?
help	How's it going?	mad	I can't find the word.	where
feel bad	good	I love you.	I have more to say.	when
break	not good	sad	Say that again?	why
pick up	That stinks	sleepy	I made a mistake.	how
more	no way	hurt	Just a second.	how many
all done	Wow!	bored	That's not it.	yes or no
not done	See you later.	excited	I get it.	ask me yes or no

## CORE AND FRINGE VOCABULARY TARGETS

### Common Noun Categories to Target for Communication and Language Development:

For nonspeaking or minimally verbal students, provide symbols and words for the Project Core Word list for communication. You will want to provide symbols for common categories of nouns you would like to teach in designated spaces around your room, for example, you may have each child's picture on a bulletin board so that children can touch pictures to talk about another student as they are learning to say their names. Below are common developmentally sequenced single word categories and items chosen from frequency lists, developmental lists and local applicability.

Actions	Communication	Listening	Parts of head	Parts of body	Clothing
open	call	listen	ear	body	shirt
sleep	text/email	listening ears	mouth	neck	pants
read	device	quiet mouth	hair	arm	shoes
find	symbols	sit	eyes	elbow	underwear
play	sign language	quiet hands	nose	hands	coat
hug	ask	calm body	face	tummy	socks
come	answer	quiet feet	cheek	back	hat/cap
buy	greet	quiet	forehead	legs	gloves
sit	say	still	teeth	knees	shorts
tell	language	no talking	chin	feet	bathing suit



Hygiene	Health	Medical/ Doctor	Health Conditions	Family Roles	School People
toilet paper	wash hands	doctor	headache	mother	bus driver
toothbrush/ toothpaste	temperature	thermometer	stomachache	father	teacher
tissue	face mask	scale/weight	fever	sister	parapro
hand sanitizer	cover mouth	blood pressure	cold	brother	therapist
brush	social distance	eyes, nose, mouth	injury	grandma	nurse
comb	gloves	nurse	diarrhea	grandpa	principal
soap	germs	stethoscope	earache	aunt	janitor
washcloth	medicine	bandage	runny nose	uncle	OT/PT
towel	rest	take blood	cough	stepmom	speech therapists
deodorant	fruits & veggies	prescription	rash	stepdad	secretary

Community People	Helpers	Types of Therapy	Snacks	Drinks	Meals
mail carrier	teacher	OT	yogurt	milk	sandwich
garbage collector	police officer	PT	chips	water	burger
farmer	doctor	speech	pretzels	iced tea	pizza
cashier	nurse	sensory	cookies	apple juice	chicken nuggets
librarian	security guard	vision	Ice cream	orange juice	pasta
server	dentist	AAC	fruit snacks	grape juice	hot dog
construction worker	firefighter	hippotherapy	crackers	juice box	french fries
coach	vet	aquatherapy	popcorn	chocolate mild	cheese
sales clerk	soldier	hearing	granola bar	cup	vegetable
repair person	paramedic	equipment fitting	fish crackers	straw	fruit



# CORE AND FRINGE VOCABULARY TARGET



Breakfast	Fruit	Vegetables	Hobbies & Leisure	Toys	Entertainment
scrambled eggs	apple	carrot	arts & crafts	ball	movie
cereal	banana	celery sticks	reading	baby doll	play
pancake	orange	broccoli	cards	teddy bear	video game
waffle	strawberry	corn	toys	potato head	celebrate
grits	watermelon	lettuce	play	toy box	dance
oatmeal	grapes	green beans	bowling	slinky	fireworks
fried egg	blueberries	peas	dance	squeak toy	parade
hash browns	melon	bell pepper	coloring	puzzle	party
bacon	peach	spinach	fishing	logo	TV
sausage	tomato	onions	relax	blocks	act

Sports	Electronics	Tools	Furniture	Kitchen	Kitchen Utensils
baseball	computer	hammer	bed	refrigerator	cup
football	laptop	screwdriver	table	sink	bowl
swim	tablet/iPad	nail	chair	stove	plate
soccer	device	screw	desk	trash can	fork
basketball	cell phone	wrench	sofa	toaster	spoon
track & field	mouse	bolt	chair	microwave	knife
tennis	headphones	nut	TV stand	oven	potholder
bowling	apps	socket wrench	lamp	counter	measuring cup
hockey	video game	bench	bookcase	tea kettle	pot
golf	battery charger	toolbox	crib	coffee maker	spatula



# CORE AND FRINGE VOCABULARY TARGETS



Home (inside)	Home (outside)	Transportation	Places	Stores	Restaurant
bathroom	yard	car	home	stores	restaurant
family room	flowers	van	church	grocery store	drive thru
bedroom	trees	school bus	school	department store	fast food
dining room	plants	bus	restaurant	drug	cafeteria
kitchen	grass	boat	doctor's office	convenience store	coffee/tea shop
living room	deck	bike	library	toy store	pizza parlor
basement	fence	airplane	store	bookstore	snack bar
playroom	pool	train	park	clothes store	burger joint
rec room	driveway	helicopter	pool	pet store	ice cream shop
closet	mud	walk	hair stylist	bargain store	ethnic cuisine

Pets/ Woodlands	Farm Animals	Water Animals	Wild Animals	Nature	Weather
dog	pig	fish	lion	leaves	sunny
cat	horse	octopus	giraffe	trees	cloudy
bird	duck	whale	elephant	grass	rainy
guinea pig	cow	dolphin	monkey	birds	windy
bunny	chicken	jelly fish	bear	bugs	foggy
deer	chick	starfish	tiger	plant	snowy
squirrel	goat	shark	meerkat	lake	partly cloudy
raccoon	rooster	sea horse	zebra	rock	partly sunny
chipmunk	sheep	sea lion	rhino	dirt	hot
mouse	turkey	walrus	snake	stick	cold

Seasons	Quality Concepts	Position Concepts	Quantity Concepts	Date & Time	Days of Week
seasons	hot	In	big	Time	Sunday
winter	cold	off	little	Date	Monday
spring	dirty	on	more	Now	Tuesday
summer	clean	under	less	Later	Wednesday
fall	soft	over	same	Today	Thursday
	hard	out of	different	Tomorrow	Friday
	wet	together	some	yesterday	Saturday
	dry	apart	all	morning	week
	heavy	up	empty	afternoon & evening	weekday
	light	Down	full	week	weekend



# CORE AND FRINGE VOCABULARY TARGETS



Months		Holidays		School Places	School Things	School Supplies	Colors
January	August	New Year's Day	Juneteenth	school	backpack	paint	red
February	September	Martin Luther King Day	Independence Day	class	folder	glue	blue
March	August	Valentine's Day	Labor Day	cafeteria	lunchbox	markers	green
April	September	President's Day	Halloween	gym	notebook	crayons	yellow
May	October	St. Patrick's Day	Thanksgiving	media center	cubby	scissors	orange
June	November	Easter	Hanukkah	bathroom	whiteboard	paper	purple
July	December	Cinco de Mayo	Christmas	office	desk	pencil	pink
		Memorial Day	Kwanzaa	nurse	jacket	pen	white
				playground	teacher's desk	paintbrush	grey
				bus port	medication	ruler	Black

Shapes	Literacy	Alphabet			Math	Numbers	Money
square	book	Aa	Bb	Cc	Add	1	piggy bank
circle	page	Dd	Ee	Ff	subtract	2	penny
rectangle	word	Gg	Hh	Ii	multiply	3	nickel
triangle	plot	Jj	Kk	Ll	divide	4	dime
star	character	Mm	Nn	Oo	equal	5	quarter
diamond	setting	Pp	Qq	Rr	calculator	6	one dollar
heart	first	Ss	Tt	Uu	more	7	five dollars
octagon	Next	Aa	Bb	Cc	less	8	ten dollars
oval	last	Vv	Ww	Yy	same	9	wallet
hexagon	end		Zz		different	10	purse



