AAC Playground Board Blueprint

Location, Location, Location

- Where do you want the sign?
- Where can the display be safely located?
- Determine best location with consideration for ease of accessibility.
- Height, size, and type of display (i.e. A frame, single board/double sided, permanent, removable, foldable, etc) should allow young children and individuals in wheelchairs to easily access the vocabulary on the board.
- Do you want more than one board at the specific location? Vocabulary on one side or both sides of the board?

- Obtain permission
- Get people on board (show samples, share publicity from other playground board projects)
- Determine what approvals are needed regarding size, funding source, placement, and/or design of the sign? Identify who makes the decision for approvals based on your blueprint.
  - Examples of possible approvals needed: Township, Mayor, school district, Principal, Parks and Recreation department, engineering department
  - Note: this will vary depending on location and funding source

- Identify funding source
  - Township/County funding
  - Parent organizations (PTO’s, Special Parent Organizations)
  - School Board funding
  - GoFund Me
  - Fundraisers
  - Families of AAC Users
  - Grants
  - Local service organizations (i.e. Lions Club, Elks, Kiwanis)
  - Community Businesses

Premade or Custom?

- Premade boards are commercially available
  - Note: Please review the board layout and vocabulary to ensure that it represents the language needs of your target audience and environment

- Custom Board Select Board layout to create a custom playground board
  - Determine the number and size of icons
  - Choose vocabulary, determine layout and color coding (e.g. green verbs, yellow pronouns)
  - Consider inclusion of alphabet, qwerty keyboard, numbers
Identify the size of the board

Choose the symbol system i.e. commercially available symbol set, actual photographs, alphabet board, etc.

- Additional accessibility features may include symbols with signs, braille under symbols, etc.

Select vocabulary that reflects the playground and/or environment

Consideration for diversity in symbol selection and vocabulary to represent a broad range of users

What language(s) should be represented on the board (English, Spanish, bilingual etc).

Additional information (Make sure to leave space on the board for the following information)

- Acknowledgement of funding source
- Copyright information for the symbol system
- Permission for Use of the Symbol System
- Directions for use (optional but highly recommended)
  - Example Directions:
    - Point to the symbols while you talk
    - Stick to the key words. For example, you can say “Do you want to go on the swing?” while pointing to the symbols “want”, “go”, and “swing”
    - Have FUN! Communication should be enjoyable and engaging!

Copyright and Vector Images

- Once Symbol system is identified obtain copyright and permission to use requirements, and vector images
  - Contact company to obtain requirements needed for permission/copyright and vector images to be used for the sign
  - Note: Vector images are needed so images on large core boards do not become grainy (pixelated)

Design/Create

- Identify a graphic designer to use vector images to create the board
- Select a sign company to create AAC playground display
  - Note: Ask the sign company to provide a full size paper mock-up to assist in determining appropriate height/location prior to final production and placement.

General Information

1) Boards and budget might range from $300-$1500 depending on size and materials
2) Consider various types of materials for durability, weather resistance, and color.
3) Consider need for graffiti proof surface
4) Consider adding attached box to contain letter size, laminated, portable copies of the board for mobile use throughout the playground (may require additional copyright permission)

5) For additional questions contact info@njsha.org attn: AAC Committee