

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 departmentNote: 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