Assistive technology doesn’t have to be high-tech! Here are 5 great examples of easy-to-use, low-tech or no-tech AT tools that help build children’s communication skills.

1. **AT TOOL**
   **Communication photographs**
   WHAT IT IS
   Individual digital photos of actual items, people, actions, places, and feelings of child’s environment.
   HOW TO USE IT
   Select the appropriate number and size of photos for the child. Position photo in front of object to link symbol and object.
   HOW IT HELPS
   Links to objects in environment to build communicative intent. Reinforces familiar receptive vocabulary and introduces novel words.

2. **AT TOOL**
   **Visual scene**
   WHAT IT IS
   Large photograph of a familiar environment (laminated or preserved with page protector)
   HOW TO USE IT
   Introduce the photo prior to an activity. Preview what the child will see, do, and experience. Review after the activity to create a “story” about it.
   HOW IT HELPS
   Depicts actions, people, and interactions in context, to help the child build vocabulary beyond nouns.

3. **AT TOOL**
   **Communication icons with printed label**
   WHAT IT IS
   Individual icons printed on single laminated cards
   HOW TO USE IT
   Select the appropriate icon cards for the child. Position card in front of object to link icon and object.
   HOW IT HELPS
   Represents objects, actions, people, and other vocabulary in a higher level of symbolic representation.

4. **AT TOOL**
   **Activity board**
   WHAT IT IS
   Various sizes and numbers of photos and icons displayed on a board
   HOW TO USE IT
   Position core words in the same place on repeated boards to show steps of activities in sequence. Use aided language stimulation to highlight words. Wait for child’s response.
   HOW IT HELPS
   Supports comprehension and expressive language.

5. **AT TOOL**
   **Clock scanning communicators**
   WHAT IT IS
   Visual display of communication choices on a clear plastic clock face.
   HOW TO USE IT
   Attach selected objects/photos/icons on clock face. Child controls the pointer with the touch of a switch until the desired symbol is reached.
   HOW IT HELPS
   Great way to communicate choices and desires.


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