

## What are **\*Core Words** and **Fringe Words**

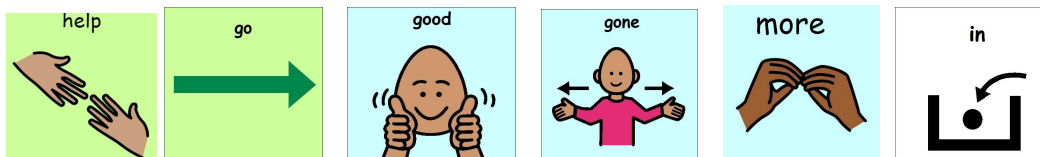
(For spoken words, sign language and/or picture communication symbols)

### **\*Core Words**

Core words are words that we use often and that can be used in many situations. Core words are the small number of words that make up 70 - 80% of what we say. They allow us to express a wide variety of needs, wants and ideas. They include action words, describing words and location words (e.g., help, go, good, ready and in).

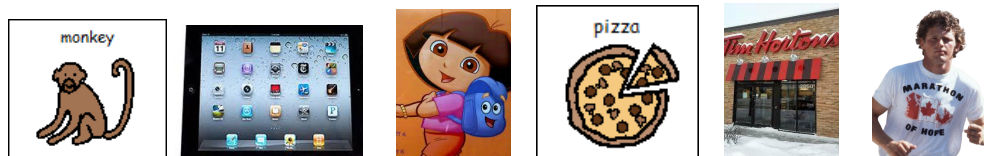
Core words are useful across a broad number of events or activities and are needed throughout your entire life. Using core words allows us to communicate for many different reasons (e.g., requesting, expressing feelings, sharing likes/dislikes, making comments, directing others, etc.).

Core words provide real communicative power!



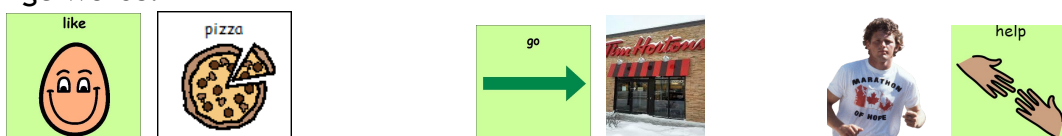
### **Fringe Words**

Fringe words are not used very often and usually cannot be used in a variety of situations. Fringe words consist primarily of nouns and are specific to a theme, activity, person, or object. All of us use fringe vocabulary, such as the names of family members, friends, pets, favourite things and places. The fringe words that are important to each of us are unique and probably only a few of our fringe words would be used by others. Some frequently used fringe words may be considered core words for specific people. Using highly motivating fringe words is especially important for beginning communicators.



### **Combining Core and Fringe Words**

The most **powerful communication** comes from using core words in combination with a few fringe words.



**Note:** \*core vocabulary means the same as 'core words'