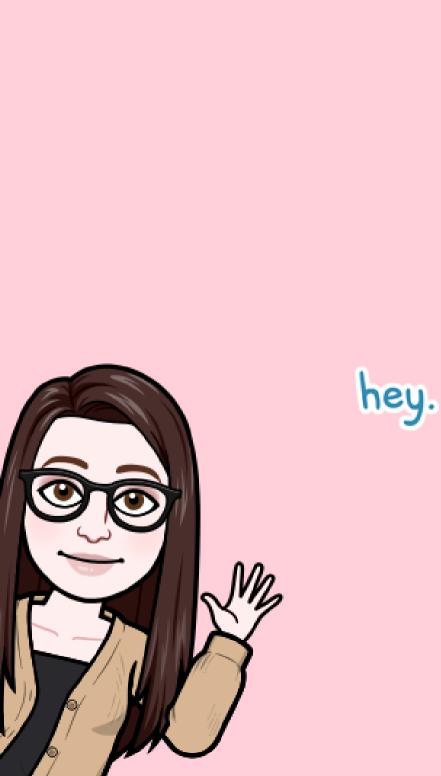
and Makenzi Peek









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INTRODUCTIONS



Financial disclosures: None Non-financial disclosures: We are both employed at Branch Intermediate School District

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To understand the barriers that stand between our students and community members, impacting our students' ability to interact with other members of the community who may not understand their communication skills.
- 2. To assist attendees in developing ways to take down barriers in their own communities.



Vocabulary



THE WORDS THAT WE USE 80% OF THE TIME IN DAILY COMMUNICATION. F TH TO

FRINGE WORDS

THE WORDS THAT WE USE TO IDENTIFY WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT

WHY WE CHOSE CORE

Specific Language System First AAC Approach

- Low Tech
- High Tech



CORE Words can help a person communicate basic wants and needs to anyone, even those who are not familiar with what CORE Vocabulary is.

It passes the Wal-Mart Test.

Let's Talk!

Mentimeter

Why would a student need core?

8797 3509



https://www.mentimeter.com/s/2bb47af42077cd44283c1d3d4b97d623/0<mark>95b9c606408</mark>

Barriers we faced with Implementation: Buy In from:

Teachers: They showed interest, but were not overly willing to implement a new system. Change is Hard! **Parents:** They get told a lot of "the new thing" for kids with special needs. They didn't want a new thing. They are the ones who can understand their child. Community Members: "Those kids don't come here".

Where did we start?

We started where everything else in Special Education starts: with the data.





According to www.mi.gov at the fall count, Branch County currently had 5,629 students enrolled within our public schools during the 2020-2021 School Year. Of those 5,629 students, 750, or 13.32% have been identified as having a disability of some kind, qualifying him/her for Special Education Services. This is an increase of 32 students as compared to 2019-2020 school year.

Waldron learning center, our county's centerbased program, currently has 70 students enrolled. Of those 40% of students have difficulty with communication, while 31% have no recognizable language at all.

Currently, school Speech Pathologists are servicing 117 total children in our county with little to no verbal language. The numbers discussed on the previous screen only include those students who have been identified as having a disability.

In addition to students identified as having a disability, one of our local schools also reports that 22.47% of students enter the school buildings each day without the ability to communicate using English as a first language. If these students are in our schools, they are certainly in our communities struggling to effectively communicate with others.



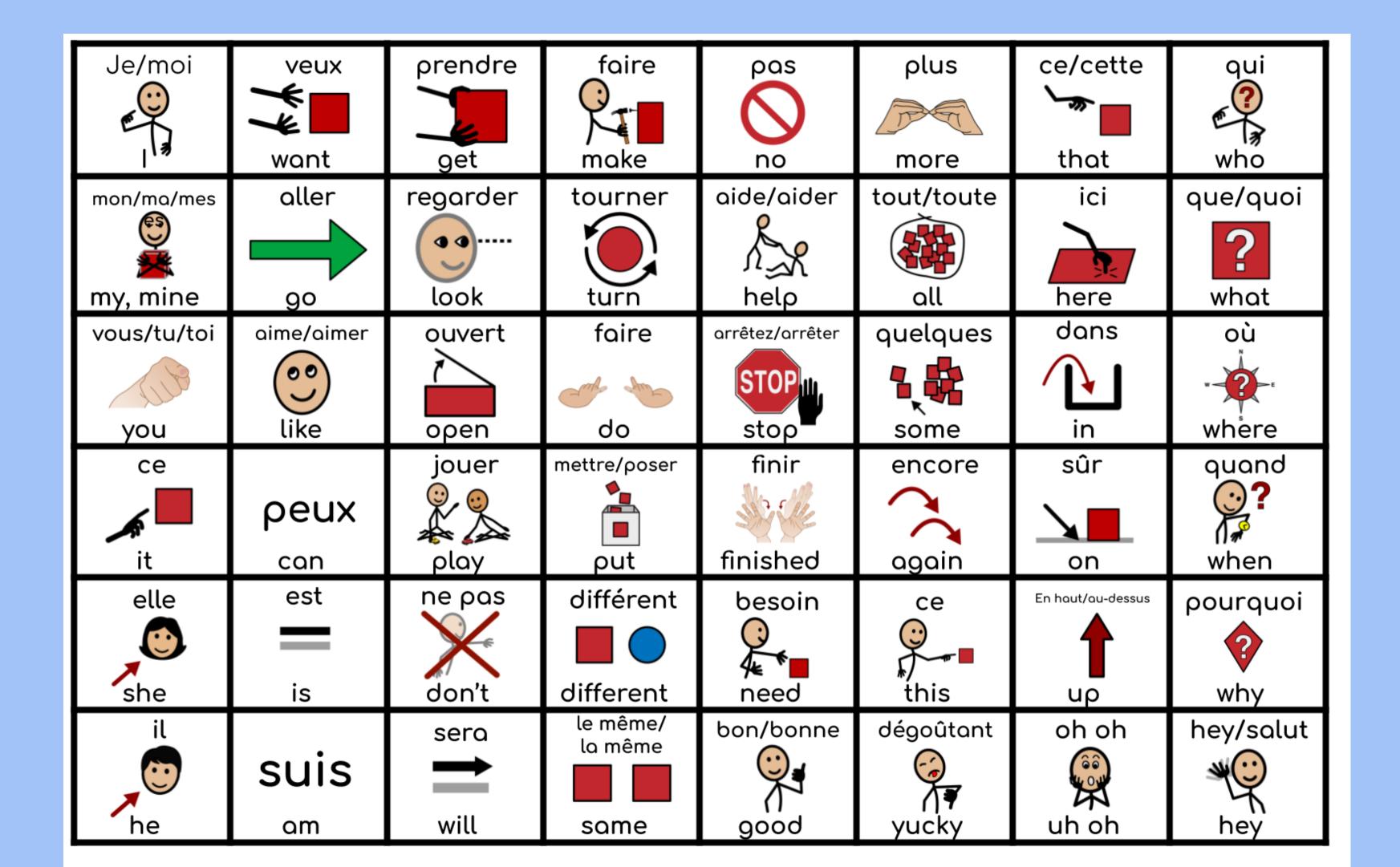
During the 2020-2021 School year 838 children were enrolled in our Birth to 5 programs, including Head Start. Of those 838 children, 153 or 18.25% of those children received Special Education Programs and Services.

The data tells us we need to be proactive, not just in the school setting but in the community as well.

This data was also what we needed to help us get buy-in from the general education teachers.

We started in the Gen Ed Setting with a focus on our English Language Learners.

To support the student and to bring value to the teachers we had our boards translated into German, French, Arabic, and Spanish.



WE DISCUSSED WITH TEACHERS HOW CORE CAN IMPACT GENERAL EDUCATION

English Language Learners

Sight Words

Expanding Sentences

Visual Learners



Social Skills with Peers

Slow Down

Sight Words

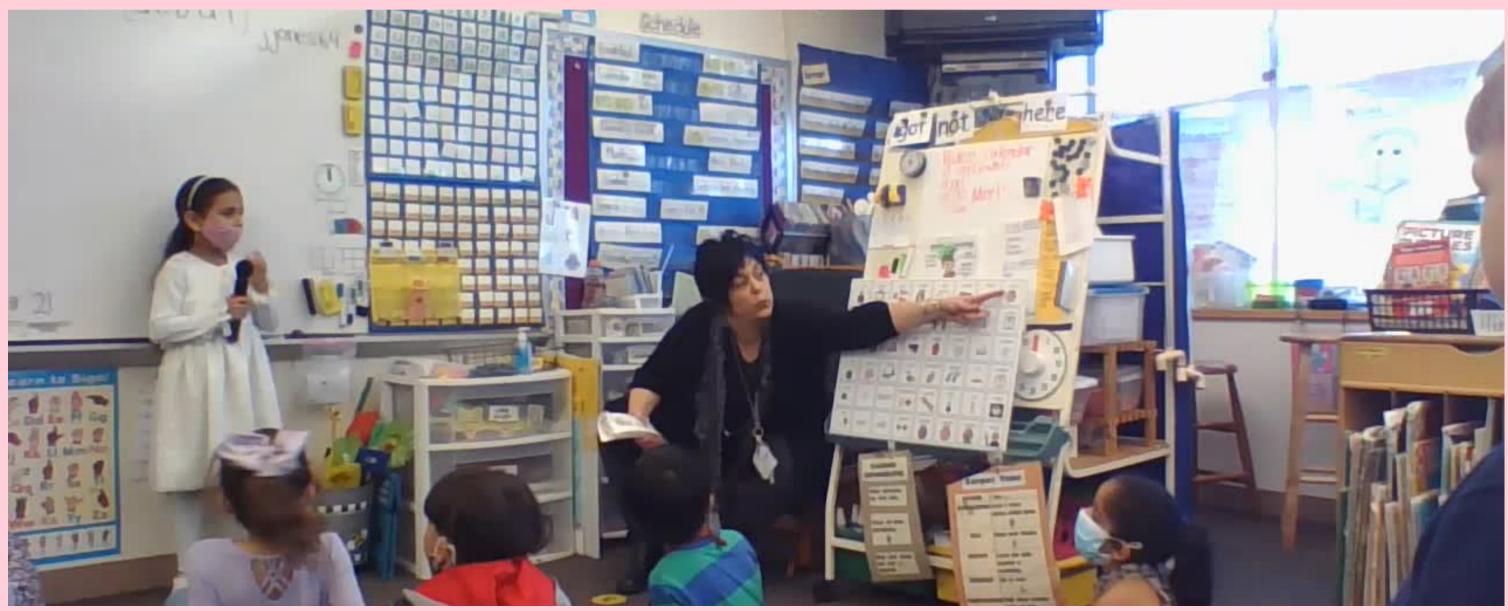
Most core words are also on the Dolch Sight Word list.

Expanding Sentences

Core words are often important language constructs that many children have difficulty with. Ex. She/He, Is/Are, Same/Different

Visual Learners

Many students benefit from both visual and motor movement cues.



Social Skills with Peers

When you can speak the same language as your special education peers, then you can create long lasting friendships.



Slow Down

When using core words we naturally slow down. This benefits students learning language and any student with fluency concerns.

WE ALSO FOCUSED ON CORE IN THE COMMUNITY. WE NEEDED TO:

Builds relationships with schools and agencies.

Builds awareness of special needs in your community.

Increases independence opportunities for ALL your students.

Increases safety for your nonvocal students.



Safety First:

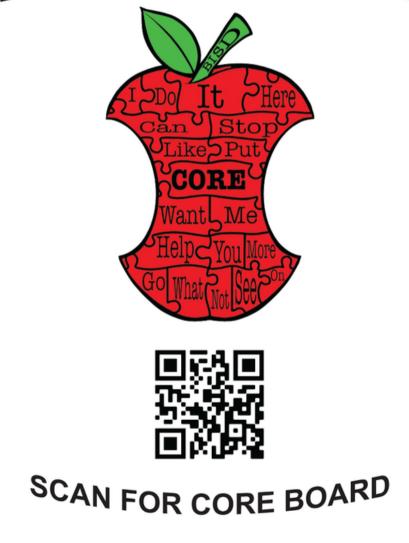
We began by training all local fire, police, and EMS. From there we transitioned to our local hospital and doctor's offices. In total, more than 150 individuals have been trained in just these fields.



Your business matters:

BISD CORE BOARD

BISD CORE AVAILABLE HERE



Window Clings with our CORE logo are in the process of being dispersed to community businesses, along with training if the business is interested. Through the QR Code on the Window Cling families can scan the code and have instant access to the Branch ISD CORE Board in each of the available languages. They are also able to access boards that speak. This allows for individuals to be more independent, to be functioning members of society, and to complete daily tasks in the community independently. It also allows for businesses to interact with these individuals when before they may have had a difficult time understanding the lack of language, use of sign language, or other modes of communication.



Funding and Support

Grants through our local community foundation. Presentations at all of the local service clubs. Local Radio talks.

- Massive amounts of emails and phone calls.
 - Parent Events
 - Word of Mouth
 - Networking

All totaling nearly \$10,000 in monies to support our vision and drive to make our community accessible to all.

RESOURCES

www.project-core.org www.n2y.com www.brcofoundation.org www.branch-isd.org





QUESTIONS? ** CLARIFICATIONS?

Please feel free to contact us through email or phone.



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