

## **Good News – Bad News**

**WHAT IS THIS:** This strategy is designed to support students in being 'active listeners', filling their 'non-obligatory turns'. See the March, 2010 Tip of the Month, 'Active Listening' at [www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com) for more information. Briefly, this strategy helps individuals who use AAC to listen carefully to a conversation, and be a full participant by using:

- Positive comments (ex: cool, awesome, wow, congratulations!)
- Negative comments (ex: oh no, bummer, darn, rats)
- Neutral comments (ex: well, okay, huh, really)

**WHO IS THIS FOR:** This strategy is for individuals who are not already filling their 'non-obligatory turns.' For example, if a partner says, I went to a cool movie yesterday, and the person who uses AAC simply smiles and nods, they are not verbally filling that turn. Giving a verbal response will show the communication partner they he or she is interested, competent at using the device, and a good conversational partner. This strategy is best for individuals who are able to make a response within a relatively short amount of time (under a minute).

**LOGISTICS:** First, re-read the Active Listening tip, and the sample comments above, and ensure that the person can quickly access one or more positive, negative, or neutral comments. Factors to consider:

- Comments should be chosen by the AAC user
- Partners (especially peers!) can give ideas
- Consider having peers record comments, for higher engagement

**SUMMARY FOR PARTNERS:** The following page presents a 1-page summary for communication partners, to help them learn to have conversations to practice being an active listener. The final page offers a 'tip sheet' that provides a quick summary. It may help to print this page, and give one copy to each partner. These materials are samples of those used for Communication Circles. Remind partners that this should be an enjoyable activity, using real life events, not made-up stories. In short, it should be a real conversation, which is shared in a way scaffold quick participation by individuals who use AAC.

## Good News – Bad News

**1) Start telling a story (ex: story about birthday party)**

**2) Include ‘good parts’ such as:**

**“Last month was my birthday party.”**

**- Wait for \_\_\_\_\_ to make a comment (ex: cool, awesome, good)**

**3) Also include ‘bad parts’ such as:**

**“My best friend got sick and couldn’t come”**

**- Wait for \_\_\_\_\_ to make a comment (ex: bummer, yuck)**

**4) Keep going for several turns. Mix it up – ex: 2 good things, 1 bad thing, 1 good thing, 2 bad things)**

### **RULES:**

**a) No mean stories!**

**b) No naughty stories!**

**Have FUN!!!**

Good News / Bad News

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS</b></p> <p>1) Start telling a story. Ex: • Stepped in dog poo • Forgot my homework</p> <p>2) Include good parts: • Ex. I was taking a walk • Wait for comments (cool / wow)</p> <p>3) Include bad parts: • Ex. I stepped in dog poo! • Wait for comments (oh no / yuk)</p> <p>4) Keep going for several turns&amp; mix it up (good &amp; bad parts)</p> <p><b>RULES:</b> No mean stories! No naughty stories!!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS</b></p> <p>1) Start telling a story. Ex: • Stepped in dog poo • Forgot my homework</p> <p>2) Include good parts: • Ex. I was taking a walk • Wait for comments (cool / wow)</p> <p>3) Include bad parts: • Ex. I stepped in dog poo! • Wait for comments (oh no / yuk)</p> <p>4) Keep going for several turns&amp; mix it up (good &amp; bad parts)</p> <p><b>RULES:</b> No mean stories! No naughty stories!!</p>
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