DLM® Core Vocabulary "First 40"

1.	I	like	not	want
2.	help	it	more	different
3.	who	she	you	he
4.	where	up	on	in
5.	me	make	get	look
6.	what	need	are	is
7.	some	put	all	this
8.	don't	that	go	do
9.	when	finished	can	here
10.	open	turn	stop	over

This grid displays the DLM "First 40" recommended core vocabulary words. These words are recommended for students who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) that need to start with a limited number of words in their communication systems due to motor, sensory, and/or cognitive challenges. These words were selected from a larger core vocabulary set based on their usefulness in everyday communication and in addressing the DLM Essential Elements. The "First 40" words are intended to get a student started with AAC, and additional core vocabulary words should be added over time, as the student learns and begins to use these words for communication.

If a student already has an effective AAC system, educators can compare the words in that system with the DLM "First 40" to see if additions to the current system would be helpful. If a student has an AAC system, but is not particularly successful at using it, consider using the DLM "First 40" to inform vocabulary selection.

The grid shown above is organized into 10 rows that have 4 words each. For students who need to start with an extremely limited number of words on a page, you could create 10 pages with these 4 core vocabulary words on each page. Although the student may only have access to 4 core words/symbols at one time, the AAC system provides the student with a total of 40 core words across the 10 pages.