

How to convert PODD to PDF in Boardmaker 6

So I've been frustrated that I'm always fumbling through this patient's PODD book in sessions. Wish there was a "word finder" for PODD. I'm pretty "at home" with most AAC devices and apps since I have had lots of time to look through them and use them. I wanted to have this same level of ease in using PODD so I decided that I needed a copy of the same style of PODD book that she is using.

Unfortunately I can't use the Tobii Dynavox PODD pageset in the Compass app to model since it doesn't look anything like my patient's PODD book. Since I am only 14 weeks away from retirement it did not make sense to spend about \$80 to order a premade PODD book for me. I had seen comments online of folks saving a PODD book as a PDF so that's what I decided to do. I saved the PDF in iBooks on my iPad. Now I have a way to look through it to get a feel for what vocabulary is in it and the pragmatic branching.

Be forewarned it's a **VERY** tedious & time consuming process to save a PODD book into one PDF if you are **using Boardmaker 6 on a CD**. It took me about 3 hours for a 123 pages of PODD. It's not hard but time consuming.

- Open the first page of your PODD book in Boardmaker.
- Go to File – Print Set Up – Print Set Up – selected "Microsoft Print to PDF" – OK – Remember Board Settings for New Boards - OK
- Go to File – Print (make sure it says "Microsoft Print to PDF" as the printer) – OK

You have to repeat the process for every single page that you want to include in the PDF of your PODD book. (I don't have access to Boardmaker Online so I don't know what the steps are there).

After you have all your pages saved as PDFs, then go to the Small PDF website (<https://smallpdf.com/merge-pdf>). This website lets you upload an unlimited number of PDFs. After they are all uploaded then you hit "merge". I was surprised how quickly this website handled merging 123 PDFs into one 123 page PDF document. I then uploaded the merged PDF from my computer into the media storage on my blog (a secured area that only I have access to). From there I was able to e-mail the link to the iPad that I use for AAC and opened the PDF in iBooks to save it on the device.

The image is a composite screenshot. On the left, the Boardmaker 6 software interface is visible, showing a page titled "Page 1b" with several communication cards. The cards include: "please" (with a person bowing), "excuse me" (with a person bowing), "thank you" (with a person bowing), "I'm sorry" (with a sad face), "I have to go to the bathroom" (with a toilet icon), "Just kidding, teasing" (with a laughing face), and "I want the other" (with a group of people). A "Print" dialog box is open over the software, showing "Microsoft Print to PDF" as the selected printer. On the right, a browser window shows the Smallpdf website. The website has a navigation bar with "Compress", "Convert", "Merge", "Edit", "Sign", and "All Tools". The main heading is "Merge PDF" with the subtext "The easiest way to combine PDF Files". Below this is a "Drop PDF(s) here" area with a "FROM DROPBOX" link. A small ad for Google is also visible on the website.