REASONS we communicate

Use this poster to plan communication goals and activities for AAC users. Which of these communication functions is your AAC user already using? Which do you want to teach next? And what words and messages can you model to teach these different reasons to communicate?

Learn more about communication functions or download this poster: www.assistiveware.com/communicationfunctions

Getting and giving information
- Comment
- Direct
- Express feelings
- Ask questions
- Discuss
- Give opinions
- Describe
- Share news
- Tell a story
- Tell an imaginary story
- Plan
- Explain

Social Interaction
- Greet
- Be polite
- Flirt or compliment
- Start a conversation
- Set topic
- Direct a conversation
- Change topic
- Ask social questions
- Share about self
- Wrap up a conversation
- Tease or joke
- Negotiate

Strategies to be better understood
- Clarify
- Ask to clarify
- Say it differently
- Give a clue
- Describe
- Use the alphabet

Expressing Needs and Wants
- Make choices
- Get attention
- Request
- Refuse
- Protest
Plan for different communication functions

What is a communication function?

We all communicate for a wide variety of reasons every day. We call these reasons communication functions.

There are many reasons to communicate. A AAC system should let you say anything. Developing these skills makes real connections possible.

To learn the language needed to communicate for different reasons, AAC learners need to see others doing it. When modeling, we point to words on the page or in AAC words. However, there are many more reasons to communicate. An AAC system can be used to make requests and choices. Letting AAC users have these skills makes real connections possible.

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Plan for different communication functions.