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
What is a communication function?

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

Plan for different communication functions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Request</th>
<th>Protest</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Core words with fringe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>what? where?</td>
<td>not red</td>
<td>look, look at</td>
<td>I see car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go there, where you go?</td>
<td>no, not that.</td>
<td>that girl looks pretty</td>
<td>I see car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>like the movies, what do you like?</td>
<td>I want to watch TV.</td>
<td>stop this music</td>
<td>That girl looks pretty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want that movie, I want to watch</td>
<td>different, want more, I want</td>
<td>model</td>
<td>Stop this music</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Beyond choice-making functions

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

Communication functions:
- Teach words. We also can model different communication functions. Give your AAC user many reasons to communicate! Use this poster as inspiration. Teach and model all the different communication functions.

Model functions

By learning language, you can begin to make real connections. Developing these skills makes real connections possible. However, there are many more reasons to communicate. An AAC system can be used to model different reasons. AAC learners need to see others do it. When modeling, we point to words on the AAC system. We also can model different communication functions.

Core words to model

Want play
- I want to watch TV

Want, want that, want
- I want that movie, I want to watch

Want, want that, want
- I want that movie, I want to watch

Want, want that, want
- I want that movie, I want to watch

Core words with fringe

Core words

I want, want that, want

Model functions

Communication functions:
- Direct
- Ask questions
- Core words with fringe
- Core words

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