

Communication Scale

- Verbal Speech
- Written Language
- Picture Board/ Word Board
- Universally Known Gestures
- Echolalia
- Physical manipulation
- Proximity to others/ objects
- Person Specific speech
- Person Specific gestures
- Screaming
- Self-Injurious Behavior
- Aggression

(Schuler et al., 1997)

Communication Type	Strategy to use
Verbal Speech	-Ask Close Ended Questions; Yes/No -Offer choices of options with “Wh” ? - If upset or not feeling well, move to options further down list
Written Language	-Typing on electronics/ pen and paper - Letterboard
Picture Board/ Word Board	-Use visuals for communication -Device (TouchChat) or printed CoreBoard - Body Check in visuals/ Symptom visuals - Eye Gaze Window -Yes/No/ Don’t Know card
Known Gestures/ Person Specific Gestures	-Eye Gaze Window -Yes/No/ Don’t Know card
Physical manipulation/ Proximity to others	-Hand Choices -Using Physical Objects/ Touch
Escalated Behavior	-Give Space -Identify what happened right before person became upset -Offer items to help calm