Communication Tool Box

What is a Communication Tool Box? A collection of strategies that when implemented consistently really boosts communication. The figure below illustrates a few of the evidence-based strategies that really work.

**EVERY** student communicates. Student communication may take many behavioral forms including vocalizations, smiling, crying, head turns, body movements, even tantrums, elopement, and more serious behaviors. Often it is VERY difficult to determine what the form means (intent). However, there is a strategy for managing that uncertainty. **Acknowledge all Communication!** Tell the student what their behavior is telling you. It is ok to guess. Use a script similar to the example below to Acknowledge Communication.

> “Oh you turned your head away, that says ‘I don’t want it; OK, we’ll try something else’; or “You are smiling, smiling says ‘I like it’”

If you can’t “honor” the intent, simply offer an alternative. Look to see if communication increases. Use the attached form to document your observations!

Teach a clearer intention by modeling. Use the attached Core Board. Be sure to use communication forms to model “NO” such as head shake, pointing to no. Saying “no” with emphasis or animation.

> “When I don’t want it, I say ‘NO, NO, NO’ while pointing to a picture of ‘NO’.

**NEXT MONTH – RESPOND AS IF MEANINGFUL**
To earn ASHA CEUs you must:

• Pre-register for the course through your LIC
• Bring your ASHA number the day of the course
• Complete ASHA CEU form the day of the course
• Be present for the entire course. No partial credit will be provided.

**TAALC TUESDAY DATES**

- September 13
- October 18
- November 15
- January 17
- February 14
- March 14
- April 18

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, or mobile device: https://uky.zoom.us/j/3025007355

**CORE Vocabulary Board**

Communication can’t wait for the device to arrive. Practice with the core board on the next page. Then replicate the array on the new device. Use sticky notes to cover un-needed words.

**TAALC TUESDAY WEBINAR SERIES!**

**TAALC Tuesday** will start in Mid-October late afternoons 3:00 Eastern/2:00Central. Join the live conversation and get your questions answered or listen later to the posted recording. Topics will include

- September 13- Read my Smile! Multi-modal Communication –
- October 18 - Beyond Single Words: Pokemon go!
- November 15 - It’s MY turn! Aided Language Modeling
- January 17 - Touch it! Tactile symbols and device enhancements for vision support
- February 14- Finding the hours in the day: Integrated Related Services
- March 14 - District Communication Teams: Lessons Learned
- April 18 - Peer Supports: Communication Super Heroes

**Need help with an individual student’s communication or want to start a district team?**

Apply for Tier 2 or 3 Technical Assistance & Coaching

Contact: Jacqui Kearns
for an application packet
Jacqueline.kearns@uky.edu

**Need CEUS?**

**NCSC Communication Tool Kit**

for 3 hours of ASHA Certified CEUs

https://learn.hdi.uky.edu/index.php/product/ncsc-communication-toolkit/

**Listen Up Series**

https://msd1stop.hdi.uk.org/index.php/Teaching_Age-Appropriate_Academic_Learning_via_Communication_(TAALC)
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**Summary**

**Observing Communication Student**