SUPPORTED INCLUSION

HOW TO USE AMY M. WETHERBY'S

Checklist of Communicative Functions and Means

This checklist is useful to determine the ways in which a mostly nonverbal child communicates. Each *Communicative Function* or reason for communicating may be expressed using any number of *Communicative Means* or ways to communicate through actions and behaviour.

Communicative Functions

The Communicative Functions are divided into the following categories:

Behaviour Regulation: communicative actions used to regulate behaviour for obtaining or restricting environmental goals.

Social Interaction: communicative actions used to direct another's attention to oneself for social purposes.

Joint Attention: actions used to direct another's attention for purposes of sharing the focus on an activity or event.

Communicative Means

The Communicative Means are divided into two sections called Pre-verbal and Verbal. The following is a brief description of each mean or action listed in the checklist.

Pre-verbal

Physical Manipulation – touching, trying to operate a toy

Giving – giving an item to another person for a specific purpose (e.g., to request help with activating the item or to express an interest in it)

Pointing – pointing to an item for a specific purpose

Showing – showing the item but not releasing it

Gaze Shift – looking briefly in the direction of an item out of interest

Proximity – moving closer to the item out of interest or away from it in protest

Head Nod/Head Shake – indicating interest in an object through nodding or protesting by shaking head

Facial Expression – smiling, frowning, etc.

Self-Injury – hitting, biting, banging self

Aggression – hitting, biting, punching, kicking, scratching others

Tantrum – screaming, throwing self down on floor

Crying/Whining – to make needs known

Vocalizing – any speech-like sounds that are not full words

Other – word approximations such as "bu-bu" for "bubble"

Verbal

Immediate Echo – child repeats what is heard immediately after hearing it

Delayed Echo – child repeats what was heard earlier in the day or on a previous day

Creative One-word – spontaneously uses a single word, (e.g., saying the word "milk" can be to request it, to comment on seeing or having it, or to ask if that is what is in a cup)

Creative Multi-word – spontaneously uses two or more words

How to use the checklist

To use the checklist, simply go through each Communicative Function and check off the Communicative Means that apply. For example, if a child requests objects by pointing, looking, and moving closer to them, you would check off all three of these pre-verbal means in the "request object" row.

CHECKLIST OF COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS AND MEANS   Wetherby, 199

Child's Name: Benjamin	Date of Sample: 09/25/05 (mm/dd/year)
Context: Child Care	

COMMUNICATIVE MEANS

COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS	Physical Manipulation	Giving	Pointing	Showing	Gaze Shift	Proximity	Head Nod/Head Shake	Facial Expression	Self-injury	Aggression	Tantrum	Crying/Whining	Vocalizing	Other	Immediate Echo	Delayed Echo	Creative One-word	Creative Multi-word	Other:
				Pre-verbal													Verbal		
Behavioural Regulation																			
Request Object			✔		✔	✔													
Request Action																			
Protest																			
Social Interaction																			
Request Social Routine																			
Request Comfort																			
Greeting																			
Calling																			
Request Permission																			
Showing off																			
Joint Attention																			
Comment																			
Request Information																			
Provide Information																			
Other Functions																			

Once you have completed the checklist, you will see which means are most often used by the child and which functions need work. For example, if a child communicates most functions gesturally except for commenting, then you can examine ways of teaching her to use gestures to comment as well.

CHECKLIST OF COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS AND MEANS

Child's Name:

Context:

Date of Sample:
(mm/dd/year)

COMMUNICATIVE MEANS

COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS	Physical Manipulation	Giving	Pointing	Showing	Gaze Shift	Proximity	Head Nod/Head Shake	Facial Expression	Self-injury	Aggression	Tantrum	Crying/Whining	Vocalizing	Other	Immediate Echo	Delayed Echo	Creative One-word	Creative Multi-word	Other:
	Pre-verbal														Verbal				
Behavioural Regulation																			
Request Object																			
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