

My Communication Needs – and How You Can Help

Set the stage:	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE
Quiet environments			
Less distractions			
Sit at my level			
I like space, don't get too close			
Help me modify the volume of my device to an appropriate level			
A table with a power outlet nearby			

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What you can do to help:	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE
Give me more time to respond			
Talk more slowly to me			
Talk to me in a normal, natural tone			
Give me choices			
Ask one question at a time			
Always ask for my opinion and consent			
Keep my device charged			
Include me in group conversations			

What you can do to help: (continued)	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE
Ask me for feedback on how you are doing to support my communication			
Respect & respond to any form of communication I choose to use			
What I need:			
Help setting my device up			
Visual supports (pictures, keyword writing, etc.)			
Model/show me how to use my device in certain situations			
Use the device with me to help me become more comfortable and familiar with the device			

What I need: (continued)	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE
Help finding a folder or icon on my device			
Prior notice of topics to help me prepare			
Help adding relevant phrases/ questions/words to my device for specific interactions			
I like:			
When people talk to me, not the people who assist me			
Open-ended questions			
Yes/no questions			
Talking about my interests			

I like: (continued)	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE
Telling jokes			
Breaks			
When people respect my personal space and refrain from touching me			
When people ask if I want help before helping me			
When you look at me, not my device			
When people explain my communication needs to new partners			
Phrases to tell people what they're doing wrong programmed on my device			lingraphics com

I like: (continued)	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE
Scripts and stories			
Talking one on one			
Talking in groups			
I don't like:			
People touching my device			
People shouting at me (my ears work just fine)			
Guessing games			
Babytalk			

I don't like: (continued)	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE
Too many questions — testing what I know			
People looking at my AAC device screen			
When people explain my communication needs to new partners			
Scripts and stories			
Physical touch or hand-over-hand help			
Anyone taking my device away from me, even to make changes I need or want			

When things go wrong, here's what works for me:	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE
Repeat yourself			
Ask clarifying questions, one at a time			
Wait longer than you think you should			
Simplify your message			
Remind me to use my AAC device			