

GESTURE AND WRITE AS YOU TALK TO SUPPORT COMMUNICATION



Description

- Emphasize what you are saying by using facial expressions and gestures – or by writing or drawing key concepts as you talk.
- Encourage the person to communicate with facial expressions, gestures, printed words and drawings.

Benefit

To provide people with the opportunity to express their wants, needs, preferences and decisions. This strategy may benefit people who have difficulty hearing and/or understanding spoken messages, including those who are unable to wear their amplification device (e.g., hearing aid). People who have difficulties with expression can also use these strategies.

Tips

- Speak slowly and clearly, emphasizing key words and concepts.
- Use simple gestures and facial expressions.
- Draw simple pictures, arrows, numbers, circles and symbols to highlight and connect the points discussed.
- Keep a notepad, whiteboard, boogie board or tablet handy.
- A coil notebook on a clipboard may be preferred by some people so they can review and relate the information to others
- When you are demonstrating something, offer the pen and paper to the person to take their own notes.

MESSAGE IN

- Gesture eating as you say “it’s time for lunch.”
- Grimace and hold your forehead as you ask “Do you have a headache?”.
- Write “4 PM - Xray”

MESSAGE OUT

- Encourage person to use facial expressions, gestures, drawings and printed words, along with sounds, to communicate.

CHECKING IN

- Repeat and rephrase what the you think the person has told you, writing or gesturing key words.
- Observe their non-verbal signals to see if you have it right.

