

# March Communication Functions

For the month of March, focus on the below communication functions to help enhance communication abilities.

**Step One:** Decide what communication function you are looking to teach.

**Step Two:** Identify multiple opportunities throughout the day where you can practice modeling the communication function.

**Step Three:** Review the communication functions in a variety of contexts and track the progress of using the communication function resource.

	Communication Function to Practice	Activities
Week One	Protesting/ Rejecting Activities	<p><b>Choice Challenges:</b> Create a series of choice challenges or scenarios where the child has to use their AAC device to protest or reject certain choices. Make it a game with levels or stages, increasing the complexity as they progress.</p> <p><b>Barrier Puzzle:</b> Create a puzzle with pictures or symbols of choices, and have the child use their AAC device to solve the puzzle by rejecting or accepting pieces based on their preferences.</p>
Week Two	Commenting: (People/ Items/ Activities)	<p><b>Daily Routine Commentary:</b> During daily routines, such as mealtime or playtime, prompt individuals to comment on what they are doing or experiencing. For example, "I'm eating my sandwich, and it's yummy!"</p> <p><b>What's Different Game:</b> Present two similar pictures with slight differences. The child uses the AAC device to comment on what is different between the two pictures, like "This one has more flowers" or "The boy is wearing a hat in this one."</p>
Week Three	Exchanging Information: Relay Past or Future Events	<p><b>"Remember When..." Activity:</b> Use photographs or mementos from past school events or activities. Encourage the child to use their AAC device to talk about these memories, for example, "Remember when we went to the zoo? I saw elephants."</p> <p><b>Imaginary Future Trip:</b> Imagine planning a trip. Discuss where to go, what to do, and what might happen. The child uses the AAC device to describe this future trip, such as "We will go to the beach and build a sandcastle."</p>
Week Four	Social Interactions (Expressing Manners)	<p><b>"Manners March" Around the School:</b> During the school day, identify opportunities for the child to use manners, such as during lunchtime or when speaking with teachers and peers. Encourage the use of their AAC device to express polite phrases in these interactions.</p> <p><b>Manners Bingo:</b> Create a bingo game with different manners phrases on the bingo cards (e.g., "Please," "Thank you," "Excuse me"). During the game, describe situations where these phrases could be used, and the child identifies the correct manner phrase on their card.</p>

# Communication Functions

There are various purposes for communication, which we term as communication functions. By recognizing these functions, we can employ vocabulary that enhances language and fosters profound communication. *In doing so, we broaden the horizons of an AAC user beyond mere decision-making.*



## **Requesting: (Items / Activities / Information / Wants & Needs)**

Asking for what one needs or wants.

Example: I want a drink of water.



## **Protesting / Denying/Rejecting: (Items / Activities)**

Expressing the desire not to have something or to stop an action.

Example: I don't want to color, or I don't want to clean my room.



## **Describing / Labeling:**

Describing involves the act of identifying and elucidating the things we observe or expressing our desires and requirements. This can manifest in various activities, such as cataloging the items on our grocery shopping list or detailing the ingredients necessary for baking cookies. Through the practice of labeling and elucidating, we enhance our capacity to communicate effectively.



## **Asking / Answering Questions (Getting & Giving Information):**

Responding to a question or statement.

Example: When a teacher asks a student who uses AAC, "Did you have lunch today?", the student taps on the "Yes" icon on their AAC device.

Making inquiries about the world around them (who, what, where why and how).

Example: Where is the train? How do we make cookies? When can we watch a movie.



## **Commenting / Social Interaction:**

Making an observation or giving an opinion about something. This entails furnishing information, occasionally simply for the purpose of social exchange, about a particular situation. Frequently, we employ this method to initiate social interaction or to impart an experience.

Example: I like that song or That was funny.



## **Expressing Feelings:**

Sharing how someone is feeling physically or emotionally.

Example: My tummy hurts or I'm angry.