

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.