

## COMMUNICATION DEFINITIONS

“Communication is the most efficient and organized method we have for transmitting information about ourselves, our world, and others. Relaying this information is necessary for all people to achieve a level of independence and to function effectively in the environment. Communication is essential to growth, enabling people to develop a degree of control and autonomy in their daily lives.

This goal of independence must be considered in all levels of communication and language intervention. Those individuals possessing a non symbolic repertoire must be allowed to experience effective control in their interactions in the environment. The quality of their non symbolic repertoire needs to incorporate a variety of understandable, functional messages. The intended receivers must be sensitive and responsive to these unconventional signals so the effective exchanges can occur.”

Siegel-Causey, E. and Ernst, B. Enhancing Interactions Between Service Providers and Individuals Who Are Severely Multiply Disabled: Strategies for Developing Non-Symbolic Communication



“The term communication is defined as any overt conventional or non-conventional behavior, whether used intentionally or not, that has the effect of arousing in an onlooker a belief that the signal producing (person) is attempting to convey a message, make a demand, request, etc. to an onlooker.

Dunst, C. 1978



“Communication is the act of sharing information, desires, and ideas. Humans communicate in many ways: body movement, facial expressions, touching, gesturing, vocalizing, speaking, writing, and

by use of alternative and augmentative means (signing, communication boards, voice output communication equipment).”



“Behind all of the efforts to design a means of communication or to identify a particular student’s way of communicating, is the one thought: PEOPLE WITH THE POWER OF EXPRESSIVE COMMUNICATION HAVE THE POWER TO COMMAND AND DEMAND BECAUSE THE FUNCTION OF COMMUNICATION IS CONTROL.”



“Communication is not a luxury: it is a necessity. Speech is not a privilege: it is an inalienable right.”

Creech, R (1984)



Communication: Transmitting a message from one person to another

Language: The arbitrary symbol system used to create and send messages

Speech: The motor activity used for oral transmission of a message

