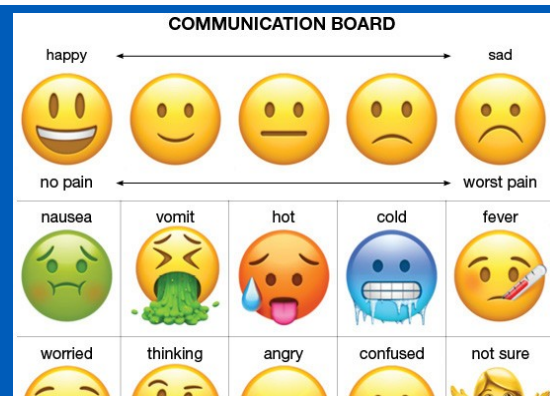


Use Pictures, Boards, and Books



Description

Use cards, boards and books with pictures, symbols, printed words, letters or a combination to help a person understand the messages of others and for the person to express themselves.

Who May Benefit?

Options for low-tech augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) allow the person to understand and to express a variety of messages, including to communicate physical/comfort needs/preference; body parts; emotions; yes-no; and levels of pain.

People who may benefit include those:

- With difficulties hearing, understanding and expressing themselves including those who are speechless due to mechanical support (e.g., intubation)
- Who can spell but not write may be able to use an alphabet board or keyboard device

Tips

- Ensure tools are accessible at all times and locations (e.g., cards on a lanyard; board on wheelchair tray; mounted/within reach at bedside).
- You may need to turn on a light and ensure that the person has their glasses when using tools.
- It may help to write down what they spell to keep track of and clarify their message.
- Show or point to the picture, symbol or printed word as you talk so the person can see and understand your message.
- Confirm what they have communicated by saying the words aloud as they point to them.

MESSAGE IN

- Use visual information with your message to make sure it is heard, processed and understood

MESSAGE OUT

- Decrease the cognitive, language and motor demands for the person to respond by using visuals

CHECKING IN

- Double check by asking the person to point at objects, words or pictures to confirm their understanding

