ConnectABILITY
A project of Community Living Toronto

Alternative Communication Methods.

Along with using words, we can encourage children to communicate in a variety of ways. These strategies do not replace verbal language. Instead they complement verbal language and allow children to communicate using their existing skills.

A variety of alternative communication methods include:

i. **Pictures:** Child uses pictures to communicate. Pictures can range from actual photographs to line drawings. Each picture should have a written label. Pictures should be consistent in all settings. (i.e. child care and home)

ii. **Sign Language:** Child uses internationally known hand gestures to communicate.

iii. **Props:** Child uses actual objects to communicate (i.e. child may look at objects or touch objects to indicate her/his wants and needs).