



Communication Land...Series

PURPOSE

The key to achieving effective communication with any person is for both parties to intentionally engage in the process and accept the responsibility for it. As a communication partner, one way to do this is to understand how specific conditions could be impacting effective communication. The goal of this series is to provide information on how each diagnosis could impact communication and offer strategies to support communicating well.

Remember, how each person is impacted will vary and effective communication access depends on each individual's unique needs.



Diagnoses Included:

- Alzheimer's Disease
- Angelman Syndrome
- Apraxia of Speech
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Cerebral Palsy
- CHARGE Syndrome
- Communication Disorder
- Conduct Disorder
- Cornelia de Lange Syndrome
- Cortical Visual Impairment
- Deaf-Blindness
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Hearing Loss
- Huntington's Disease
- Language Deprivation
- Parkinson's Disease
- Reactive Attachment Disorder
- Rett Syndrome
- Schizophrenia
- Sensory Processing Disorder
- Stroke
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Usher Syndrome
- Visual Impairment

No matter the diagnosis, the following are helpful to consider:

- Make a plan for effective communication strategies with a team of family and support professionals.
- Expressive and receptive skills may differ.
- Know each individual's unique strengths and gaps and tailor your approach accordingly.
- Be patient.
- Behavior is communication.
- Regular exposure to language is essential.
- Offer opportunities to communicate as often as possible throughout the day.
- Familiar people and environments can improve the effectiveness of communication.
- Consider the effect of comorbid disorders such as anxiety.
- Visual schedules are helpful.



Please contact the Office of Developmental Programs, Special Populations Unit at RA-PWSpecialPopUnit@pa.gov with any questions.



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