

Strategies Communicating Needs and Wants

- Behavior is always communication
- We want to help students use the *most appropriate* behaviors to communicate

Several Ways to Communicate Needs & Wants

Physical/body-face	Physical/Gestures	Verbal/Words	Technology
Body posture	Pointing	Interruptions	Typing
Facial expression	Reaching	Yelling	Picture cards
Direct gaze towards desired object/person	Grabbing	Questions	Computer Device
	Actions	Comments	iPad/iPod
	Sign language	Written notes	

Strategies: (see print-off pictures on next page)

- Student cannot speak: Provide visual choices for child to point to and choose (may be photos, laminated pictures, objects). Include an option of “stop/break/all done” for a child to express that he does not want any of the options. Even if he must choose or continue, allow him to express how he is feeling and talk through other options.
- Student does NOT “want” to do a necessary activity: Give student a way to see how much is expected of him (number of pages, visual countdown timer for length of work, etc) and allow him to see what is coming next (list of pictures to show school schedule).
- Student is always interrupting with his/her wants:
 - Print off question/comment cards for student (see below). Allow the child a certain number of cards per time of day. When a question is asked or comment given, the student must hand a card to the teacher. When all cards are gone, the student must wait until the time when the cards are returned to ask any more questions.
 - Older kids can draw or write their question on a sticky note to be collected and responded to at a certain time.

Apps: Vis Timer (\$1.99), Best Sand Timer (Free), Picture Scheduler (\$2.99)



Stop



Stop



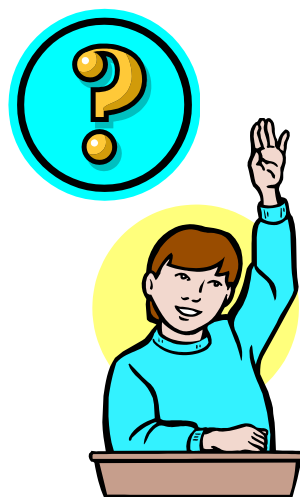
Done



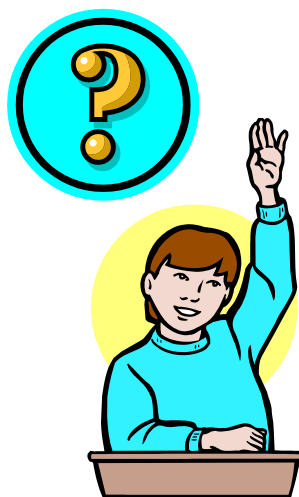
Break



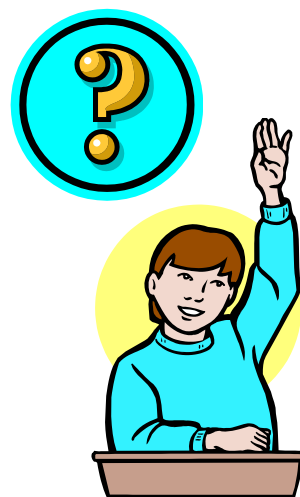
Break/Help



Question/Comment



Question/Comment



Question/Comment