

What am I communicating to you?



At this time

When this happens

We think it means

We need to do this

What do we need to do next?

Directions for Completing a Communication Dictionary

Expressive

Name: Person's name.

Date: Indicate the date that you are writing or updating the dictionary.

When this is happening: Write down what may be occurring when the communicative behavior is happening, does it occur in a certain environment? During a certain activity or at a certain time of day? When someone is present? What environmental factors are occurring, e.g., it is loud, warm, smells, etc.?

And _____ does: Describe the communicative behavior, what does the person do or say? Give enough detail that anyone seeing or hearing the behavior would recognize it and know how to respond.

We think it means: What do you think the person is trying to say? There may be more than one, as the person may use the same communicative behavior to communicate different things.

And we should: How should the listener respond to the behavior? Be specific so anyone would be able to know exactly what to do and how to do it. It may be that the person has requested something and it may not be realistic at that time, if this is the case write down how to respond. For example, if the person is requesting to go somewhere and it is not possible at that time, let the person know when you will be able to and how you can help the person understand that, "at 6:00 we will be able to go to Target. That is in 30 minutes, I will set the timer and when it goes off we will be able to go."

Receptive

When requesting _____ to: Write down the specific requests you are making or the question you want the person to respond to.

You should do this: Give specific information of all the cues (gestures, photos, etc.) that should be present to help the person understand the request and respond to the request. Also identify what type of environment is most conducive to the person understanding a request.