

Personal Dictionary (Communicative Intent Log) Sample

Student: _____

Date: _____

Birthdate: _____

Behaviours Observed "This is what I do"	Intent/What It Means "This is what I am trying to tell you"	How To Respond "What you can say and/or do"
1. Looking away, turns head away	Not interested in activity	1. Identify behaviour 2. Interpret behaviour 3. Respond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "J", you're looking away. • You're telling me you don't like ____. • Let's see if there is something else you like better". (Offer "J" a choice of a different activity)
2. Head down, hands sometimes in mouth, eyes closed	a) Tired, sleepy b) Bored, not interested in activity	a) "J", you're closing your eyes and putting your head down. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must be tired. • Give "J" 15-20 min. rest before starting another activity. b) "J", you're closing your eyes and putting your head down. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think you must be bored with ____. • Two more min. & we'll switch to something else". (Attempt to challenge "J" to continue with activity for a bit longer before switching to next activity or offering a choice.)
3. Finger or thumb in mouth, low pitches hum	Unhappy, wants out of wheelchair and to be left alone	a) "J", your finger is in your mouth & you are humming. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You want out of your chair and some time on your own. • Take "J" out of wheelchair & put "J" on floor. Try not to disturb him for 15-20 min.) b) "J", you finger is in your mouth & you are humming. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "J", you're telling me you want out of your chair but we need to finish this & then we'll get out onto the floor. c) "J", your finger is in your mouth & you are humming. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You want out of your chair & some time on your own. • We were just on the floor, now it is time to work in your chair. When we finish, then we'll take another break.
4. Loud, low pitched vocalization (wining), rocking in chair, agitated facial expression	I'm hungry and I want to eat now.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "J", I can tell by your face and voice that you're not happy". • Get "J" something to eat ASAP.
5. Stick out tongue while drinking	I don't want any more to drink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "J", you're sticking your tongue out. • I think you're saying you don't want any more to drink. • (Stop giving "J" a drink. If he hasn't had much to drink, offer more in about 30-45 min. of at the end of the meal.