

Communication Dictionary Example

Behavior Observed	Intent/ What it means	How to respond
Puts closed (fist) right hand into open left hand and says "coke"	I want a coke or a drink I want something I can't say	Try to find out what XXXX wants and let him know if he can have it
Puts open right hand into open left hand in a "karate chop" manner and says money or "Qautuh!"	I see some money for a coke I want some money for a coke	Discuss him having enough money for a coke
Shakes hand over an item while keeping eye contact	I want that, I want to see that	Discuss item with XXXX and let him have it if appropriate.
Rubs head hard, breaths hard	I am mad or I am frustrated	Try to redirect XXXX, Try to change situation, talk with XXXX
Laugh, smiles, tries to step on feet, put hands in others face, occasionally pinches	I am in a good mood, I want to spend time with you	Talk, and interact with XXXX
Being very tired, doesn't want to interact with others	I am sick	Check on medical condition, get medical help if necessary
Locking doors, turning and off lights	I am bored? I like doing these things, this is fun	Let XXXX do these activities unless it is interfering or affecting others
Hanging around kitchen, will get food/cereal for himself, look in stove at cooking food	I am hungry	If appropriate let XXXX get food or assist XXXX getting food. Let XXXX know when dinner will be done
Makes Kool-aid or gets a drink or grabs a cup	I am thirsty	Let him get a drink
Walking around and stopping and wiggling legs, jumping up and down	I am in a good mood	Let XXXX do preferred activities
Twirling hair	This is relaxing	Let XXXX do this
Stepping back from activity and jumping up and down with a smile	I like that, I like doing this	Let XXXX do preferred activities.
XXXX repeats back words that staff ask him to say	I want to do that, I like talking about this	Model word and discuss word with XXXX.
Walks away from an item, person, activity	I am bored with this and I want to do something else.	Respect his choices and offer him a new activity.
I'm staring at you"	"I am curious about you" "I may want to interact"	Greet XXXX and interact with him
I will walk up to you and stare at you	I want to interact with you	Interact with XXXX
Throws item in his hands across room	I don't want this right now.	Redirect him from throwing and offer him alternative activity.
I smile and hold up my hand in a Fist Bump, High Five, or extended position for shaking hands	I am saying hello!	Participate in social exchange he offers and say hello back.
Red face, with groaning and moaning	I am too hot.	Assist him to get into a cooler area.
I am shivering and huddled over	I am cold	Help him to get into a warmer area, jacket.
Pats another person on the back	You're my friend, I like spending time with you	Spend Time with XXXX
Holds hand above an object and looks up at you?	Is it ok for me to see/play/use this?	If ok, let XXXX use item, if unsafe, please redirect him.
Gets out an object and holds it up to you	Is it ok for me to see/play/use this?	If ok, let XXXX use item, if unsafe, please redirect him.
When working on something, he stops and looks up at you	I need help, I don't understand what I am doing.	Assist XXXX and show him how to do something.
Rubs Eyes, says "tu-tu" and looks towards you!	I need my glasses!	Help XXXX find his and put on his glasses.
Says "Merchaa"	I want a Milkshake	Help him make or buy a milkshake

"Hea-de-de" - accompanied with gesture of XXX holding hand to head	I have a headache	Call Nurse and Report/Give PRN
Gree-gree-chree	I want to go to the Green Tree Dollar Store	Take him to the Dollar Store
"Rayer"	I want my Radio	Help him get and turn on the radio
"Coiler" "Ka-er"	I want to Color	Get out his crayons and help him to color
"Ka-er Boo"	I want my Coloring Book	Get out his coloring books and present him with a choice of which one to color in. Let him choose!
Tarday	I want to go to the Target Store	Take him to Target!
Ay-o	I want to Play	Get out card games, balls, and video games. He will choose which one he wants to play.
Coca	I want to play with my Truck	Get out his trucks and let him choose which one to play with.
Mary	I want to go to the Safe Haven Thrift Store	Take him to the Safe Haven Thrift Store
BQ	I want to go to Savers	Take him to Savers
Maw	I want to go to the Mall	Take him to the Mall.
Kikay	I want a piece of Gum	Get out the gum and let him choose which flavor he wants.