

COMMUNICATION DICTIONARY EXAMPLE

BEHAVIOR	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.