



COMMUNICATION PATHWAY

L1-L6

Outcomes

Pre-Intentional Behaviour	
Level 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I may show discomfort, e.g. crying or grimacing. 2. I may show comfort, e.g. smiling or relaxing. 3. I may show interest in people, e.g. turning head to voice. 4. I may show a response to familiar voices or sounds, e.g. turning toward them, smiling. 5. I may show an awareness to a sensory stimuli e.g. blinking at a sudden noise, turning towards light, moving head in response to a smell, changing presentation in response to a familiar voice 6. My attention is fleeting but I may focus briefly on faces or objects.
Intentional but Non-Communicative Behaviour	
Level 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can show protest, e.g. turning or pushing away. 2. I can show persistence, e.g. repeating actions for a response. 3. I can show an interest in a range of objects, actions and sensory stimuli e.g. smiling, holding eye gaze, looking towards an item 4. I can show I want more, e.g. reaching or vocalising. 5. I can show I want attention, e.g. banging surface or making eye contact. 6. I can show that I respond to familiar routines or cues, e.g. putting arms out when coat is shown, consistently responding to an on body sign. 7. I can show I am paying attention, e.g. stilling or turning toward sound. 8. I can show I am focusing briefly on a familiar voice or routine e.g. turning towards voice, looking at activity 9. I can show a preference for certain tones of voice or emotional expressions e.g. settling to a calm tone of voice
Unconventional Pre-Symbolic Communication (not taught)	
Level 3a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can use my actions to refuse, e.g. throwing or moving away. 2. I can request more of an item or action through movement or vocalisation. 3. I can request a new action or item by directing others physically. 4. I can show I'm making a choice using behaviour e.g. throwing one choice away, grabbing at one item when presented with two choices. 5. I can seek help through actions, e.g. crying when something is wrong to deliberately seek attention of an adult 6. I can attract or share attention with others e.g. vocalisations, displaying behaviours that attract attention 7. I can engage in back-and-forth interactions using body or voice. 8. I can respond to an adult's approach or interaction e.g. moving towards or away from an adult 9. I can show affection physically e.g. hugging
Conventional Pre-Symbolic Communication	
Level 3b	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can refuse using hand gestures, head shake, or vocalisations 2. I can request more of an item or actions using gestures, movement or familiar sounds. 3. I can make choices by pointing, touching or nodding. 4. I can request help using gestures or vocalisations e.g. actively alerting somebody to a need by making an audible noise, pointing to a need 5. I can request new item or action using vocalisations or gestures e.g tapping area of body during tacpac in order to receive input 6. I can greet people with a wave, sound or vocalisation. 7. I can offer or share items with others. 8. I can participate in interactive exchanges e.g. responding to and seeking response during intensive interaction 9. I can begin to seek information through pointing to things e.g pointing to an item and being told the name of the item 10. I can follow simple instructions (1 information carrying word) in familiar routines with visual prompts like a point or other visual e.g. will get coat when adult points to coats on peg at playtime 11. I can attend to a short adult-led activity with support. 12. I can listen and respond to changes in tone, pitch and facial expression
Concrete Symbol Communication	
Level 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can refuse or reject using concrete symbols e.g. signing finish, putting items in finish tray, raising a hand to gesture 'stop' 2. I can request more of an item or action using concrete symbols e.g. selecting a photo of something I am already using when asked if I want more or finish 3. I can make choices using concrete symbols e.g. selecting between real objects, selecting between photos 4. I can request help using concrete symbols e.g. taking an item to an adult for help, taking toilet photo (or associated item) to an adult to request help with toileting 5. I can request new item or action using concrete symbols e.g. selecting a photo representing the item I want 6. I can engage in a simple symbolic exchange e.g. giving a photo in exchange for an item of choice 7. I can share attention and sometimes use symbolic means to do so e.g. copying gestures or vocalisations modelled by adults. 8. I can respond to simple symbolic communication as part of my routine e.g. engaging for a fixed length defined by a visual timer, understanding a change in activity when a photographic visual schedule is manipulated 9. I can greet and show affection using photos or gesture e.g. tapping photo of peer or adult when seeing them, waving to say hello 10. I can follow a 1 information carrying word instruction e.g. 'coat on' when handed a coat, 'wash hands' when given soap at a sink 11. I can offer information by responding to simple questions e.g. I point to an image of yellow when asked if something is yellow or green

	<p>12. I can seek information e.g. pointing to new things, pointing to photos of people to request names, pointing to symbols in a way that suggests I want to know what it is</p> <p>13. I can focus on a short one-to-one or small group activity with some prompts.</p> <p>14. I can shift my attention when prompted by a visual or verbal cue.</p> <p>15. I can show understanding of non-verbal cues (intonation, facial expression) e.g. I sometimes continue an action when an adult smiles, I sometimes cease an action when an adult frowns</p>
--	---

Abstract Symbol Communication

Level 5

1. I can use abstract symbols to refuse or reject e.g. saying no or finish, tapping a finish Widgit symbol, signing finish
2. I can ask for more actions using an abstract symbol e.g. saying more, tapping a more Widgit symbol, signing more
3. I can request new actions using symbols or words e.g. tapping an action Widgit symbol, saying the action
4. I can request more of an item using abstract symbols e.g. saying more, tapping a more symbol, signing more
5. I can make choices using abstract symbols e.g. tapping a Widgit symbol when offered a selection, saying the word linked to the choice I'm making
6. I can request new or unseen items using abstract symbols e.g. tapping a Widgit symbol of something I am not already using but that I know is available, saying the word linked to the request
7. I can ask for help using abstract symbols e.g. tapping a help Widgit symbol, saying the word help, signing help
8. I can get or direct attention using abstract symbols e.g. saying 'look' to encourage an adult or peer to direct attention towards something of interest
9. I can share attention using some abstract symbols e.g. using Widgit symbols and relevant vocabulary whilst engaging with an adult/peer/group
10. I can engage in a prolonged symbolic exchange e.g. responding to multiple questions or opportunities to request during snack time, repeatedly requesting colours during art when asked which colours are wanted
11. I can show affection using abstract symbols e.g. using names to get the attention of people I prefer
12. I can greet people using abstract symbols e.g. saying hello, tapping a hello Widgit symbol, signing hello or good morning/afternoon
13. I can offer or share using abstract symbols e.g. saying a name to identify somebody next in a turn taking game
14. I can answer yes/no questions using abstract symbols e.g. saying yes or no in response to a simple question like 'is this green?'
15. I can ask questions using abstract symbols e.g. pointing to a photo of an absent peer as if to ask where they are, pointing to a new adult and asking who, saying who/what/where.
16. I can name people or things using abstract symbols e.g. pointing to a relevant Widgit symbol when asked a simple question.
17. I can make comments using abstract symbols e.g. using Widgit symbols of colours to comment on colours, using Widgit symbols of size to comment on size.
18. I can follow 1 and 2 information carrying word instructions in routine activities e.g. 'Get the red cup.'
19. I can follow a simple sequence of instructions using abstract symbols with some adult support e.g. following a visual schedule, following a now and next board, following a job aid
20. I can sustain attention in familiar tasks with visual support like a visual timer
21. I can respond consistently to non-verbal cues (intonation, facial expressions)

Symbol Combination and Functional Language

Level 6

1. I can say 'no' or reject something by combining symbols e.g. 'I want finish'.
2. I can request more of an activity by combining symbols, e.g. 'more swing.'
3. I can ask to change activities by combining symbols e.g. 'different song.'
4. I can request more items by combining symbols, e.g. 'more juice.'
5. I can make choices by combining symbols, e.g. 'I want book' or 'green one.'
6. I can ask for new items by combining symbols e.g. 'I want *new item*'
7. I can ask for help combining symbols, e.g. 'help me open.'
8. I can ask for things not visible by combining symbols e.g. 'Where's my ball?'
9. I can gain attention by combining symbols e.g. 'play together' or 'I want *name of adult*'
10. I can share attention with an adult by combining symbols e.g. 'wow big!' or using phrases containing relevant vocabulary whilst engaging with an adult/peer/group
11. I can take turns in a symbolic exchange or short conversation by combining symbols e.g. taking turns to respond to and ask simple questions
12. I can respond positively by combining symbols e.g. 'I like this' or 'this is fun'
13. I can express affection by combining symbols e.g. 'I like you'
14. I can greet people by combining symbols e.g. 'hello *name of person*'
15. I can offer or share by combining symbols, e.g. 'You have it' 'you go'
16. I can direct someone's attention by combining symbols, e.g. 'come here'
17. I can answer yes/no questions by combining symbols e.g. 'yes it's green' when asked if something is green
18. I can ask questions by combining symbols, e.g. 'Where is it?' or 'when is play?' or 'who is that?'
19. I can name people and objects by combining symbols e.g. 'that is a ball'
20. I can make comments using symbolic language, e.g. 'It's big!' or 'I like it' or 'I feel hot'
21. I can listen and respond to instructions containing 2 or more information carrying words in a range of routine and non-routine environments e.g. 'pick up the ball,' 'put on your shoes and coat'
22. I can understand and respond to simple 'wh' questions (who, what, where)
23. I can recognise and respond to emotions which are displayed through changes in intonation, pitch and facial expression.
24. I can manage my attention across multi-step tasks e.g. transferring attention throughout stages 1-4 of Attention Autism, consistently following a job aid or schedule with minimal support.