#### CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

### in Developmental Disabilities

#### Freedom to Communicate

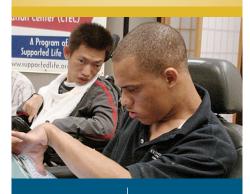
All people have the right to:

- Reject or refuse
- Request
- Be acknowledged
- Be heard
- Interact with dignity

#### **Augmentative and Alternative** Communication (AAC)

AAC tools and technologies give a voice to all through:

- Unaided communication systems that use the person's body:
  - Movement
  - Sign language
  - Gestures
- Aided communication systems that require the use of tools and the person's body:
  - Paper and pencil
  - Picture/photograph systems
  - Computers/electronic devices



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## When communicating with an AAC user, remember to:

- **Ask** the person how he or she wants to communicate.
- **Be sincere.** Say you do not understand, if you don't.
- **Speak** directly to the person.
- **Listen.** Silence is golden.
- Observe. Watch for all methods of communication. Assume competence.
- **Respond.** The person likely understands you, even if not able to reply.

Not being able to speak does not mean you have nothing to say.

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2825 50th Street Sacramento CA 95817 (916) 703-0235 https://health.ucdavis.edu/ddcenter

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