

Natural Communication



This resource was produced by Indigo therapists with funding received from Telethon 2021

Natural communication is an important part of how everyone communicates.

They can be used with or without speech.

Tuning into someone's natural communication can be an important part of them being heard.

Tuning in to what someone is already saying can be an important start to adding other forms of communication.

What is natural communication

These are mostly unaided communication strategies people use to communicate.

Sometimes these are directed at other people, other times they may be in response to the environment that others need to interpret.

Natural communication can include

- *gestures,*
 - *facial expression,*
 - *body posture,*
 - *movement,*
 - *sounds ...*
-

For example, someone screaming whilst on a roller coaster could be communicating that they are excited, having fun, and/or scared.

It is something others can guess based on the situation (context).

Typical language development

Children typically develop language from birth as they are surrounded by others using that language.

Adults respond to the early movements and behaviours as if they have meaning by mapping language to the behaviours.

Eventually children start to practice making sounds and adults respond to these attempts as well.



1 - C/- YouTube

Complex communication

Natural communication can often be labelled as “unintentional” and ignored.

As children get older their natural communication is often not considered ‘age appropriate’

Individuals with complex communication need the same types of opportunities as typically developing peers to have their natural communication acknowledged.



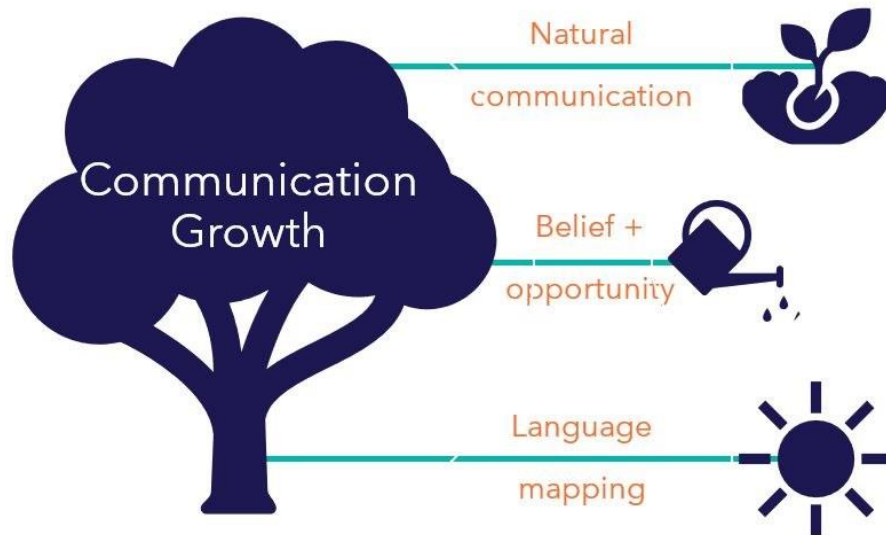
2 - Natural gestures: Washing hands

Mapping language onto natural communication

Successful communication happens when we are surrounded by people who believe we are capable of communicating.

Responsive communication partners 'map' language they have, onto the communication they see.

This involves tuning into what is happening around someone, watching closely for what they do, and adding words (verbally and visually).



<https://sway.office.com/pXlkVmBb7ZAVcRyQ#content=Rmi0bpN8353410>

Plan to recognise natural language

Improve awareness of how and why individuals might use natural communication can be an important step in their communication journey.

Wherever possible, include the individual in the recording of the meaning and actions as these are different for everyone.

The mapped language used might sometimes be simple, but should always be age appropriate.

It can be helpful to think about:

-
- *What the individual currently does*
 - *What that might mean*
 - *What people around them should do or say*
-

This can help create consistency for the individual



Planning to Recognise Natural Communication

Name of person: _____

Natural communication	What it might mean	What to say and do
-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------

For more information

For more information visit our website: [Telethon: Country Kids Communicate \(indigosolutions.org.au\)](http://indigosolutions.org.au)

Download this as a PDF document: [Natural Communication](#)

 Phone: 08 9381 0600

 Web: www.indigosolutions.org.au

 Email: help@indigosolution.org.au
