



Personalized Gesture Dictionary

A Gesture Dictionary contains a list of conventional & non-conventional gestures, body movements, vocalizations or other identified signals thought to be used regularly by the individual communicator that may be reinforced to hopefully shape and establish a more reliable set of nonverbal communication behaviors. A personalized Gesture Dictionary is especially critical for those individuals who are Emergent Communicators and who have limited verbal or symbolic communication skills. Interview of communication partners who are familiar with the individual is critical to the identification of these signals/behaviors. Once documented, the Gesture Dictionary should then be shared with ALL communication partners to support and reinforce communicative attempts and interactions by the student. This should be reviewed, updated and shared regularly by the team.

Name of Individual: _____ Date: _____

Designate if observed during a specific Activity or if it is an "Anytime" gesture.	Describe what the student does. (gesture, sound, body movements etc.)	What do we think it means?	How should the Communication Partner Respond?	Comments/ Clarification

Adapted from the work of Beukelman, David.,and Mirenda, Pat. (2013) "Augmentative and alternative communication: supporting children and adults with complex communication needs (4th ed.)." Brookes Publishing and Hunt Berg, Mary (n.d.). Gestures in AAC. Retrieved from http://www.augcominc.com/newsletters/index.cfm/newsletter_26.pdf

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