

How I communicate

These person-centred planning tools have been taken from Towards Independence. Updated for 2024, Towards Independence accredits personal, social, work-related and independent living skills for learners with SEND aged 14+ and adults.



How I communicate

A person-centred approach should be integral to all planning for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) throughout their lives. Understanding how a learner communicates is central to a person-centred approach.

When to use this tool

- In a time of transition in education, the community, training programmes, employment or supported living.
- When new staff are working with an individual with alternative methods of communication.
- For appointments, visits or meetings where an individual is advocating for themselves or making a choice.

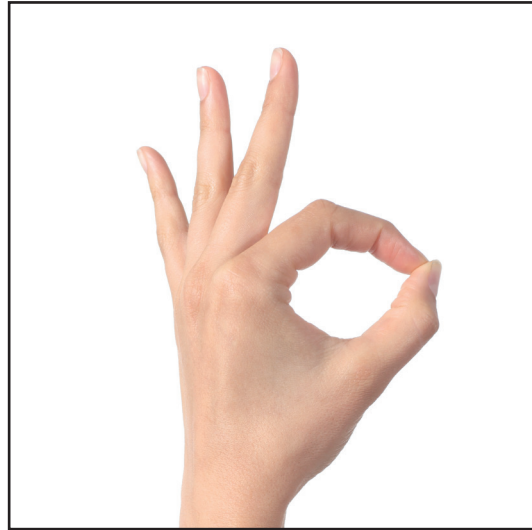
How to use this tool:

- Present the images of reference to the individual to either tick, sort or select the familiar and most effective method of communication they use. The images can be used in conjunction with other communication platforms such as a talking mat.
- Include key information about the individual such as a photograph capturing the individual's preferred and most efficient communication approach with a communication partner.
- Collect information from familiar sources to present how others can communicate in the preferred and most efficient way with the individual.
- This may be more effective if this is completed with a familiar and trusted person to the individual and then shared with new or unfamiliar people. This will support a consistent approach around the individual in using the best communication methods in the same way.

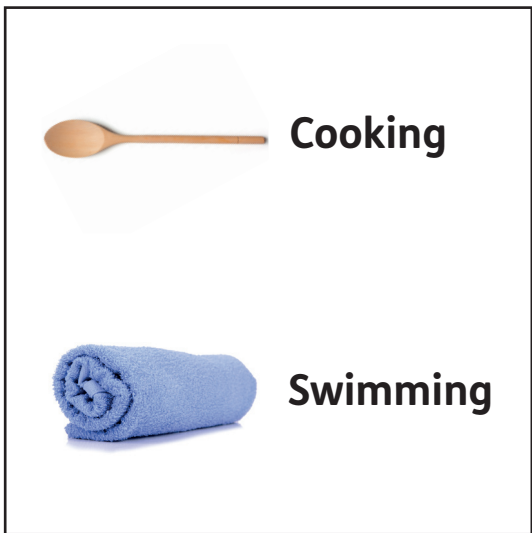
The following pages have been taken from the Starting out module of ASDAN's Towards Independence programmes. There are two versions available – one designed for sensory learners and a non-sensory version. The version you choose to use will depend on the suitability for your learner, based on their engagement and access preferences.



Use of symbols



Signing



Objects of reference

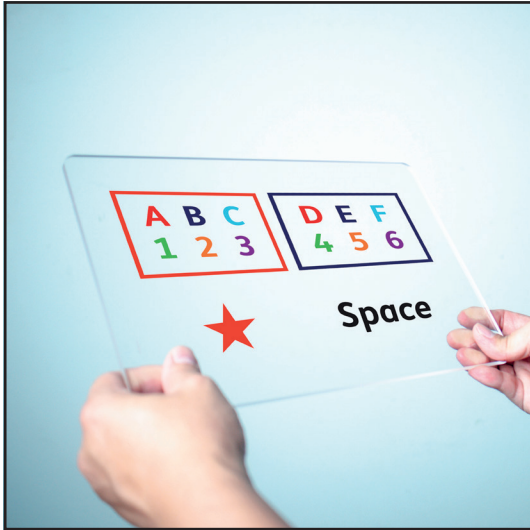


Communication switches



How I communicate

non-sensory



E-tran frame



Using a tablet



Writing or drawing



Body gestures



How I communicate

non-sensory



Eye gaze



Talking mat



Facial expressions

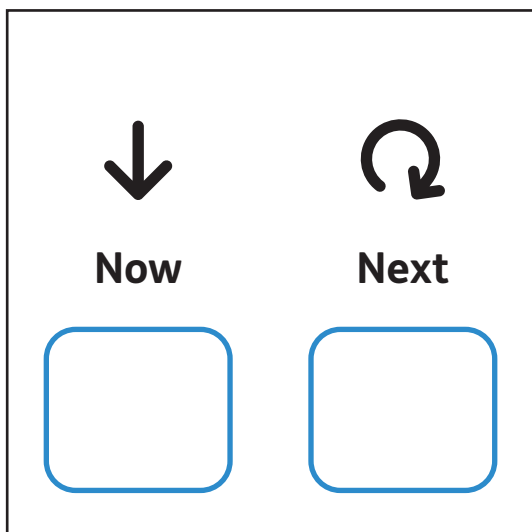


Use of speech



How I communicate

non-sensory



A communication board with two columns. The left column has a downward arrow icon above the word "Now" and a rounded rectangular box below it. The right column has a circular arrow icon above the word "Next" and a rounded rectangular box below it.

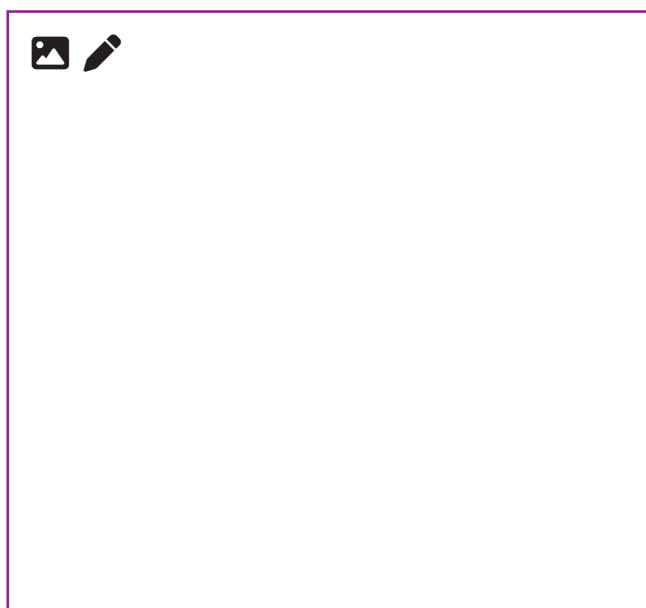
Now and next




An empty communication board with a small icon in the top left corner consisting of a picture icon and a pencil icon.




This is me communicating




An empty communication board with a small icon in the top left corner consisting of a picture icon and a pencil icon.

 **Hints and tips:** This section can be completed by the tutor/supervisor

Other important things about my communication:

 **Hints and tips:** Images on the following pages can be used here or a photo of your learner communicating and any equipment they use.

 **Idea:** You can either cut out the images or download our digital versions from our website: asdan.org.uk/towards-independence under **Course Resources** at the bottom of the page.



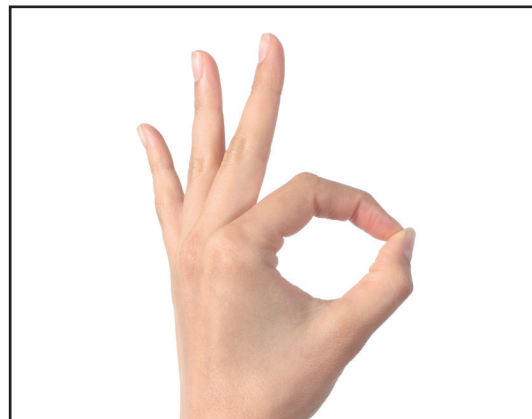
Other important things about my communication:

How I communicate

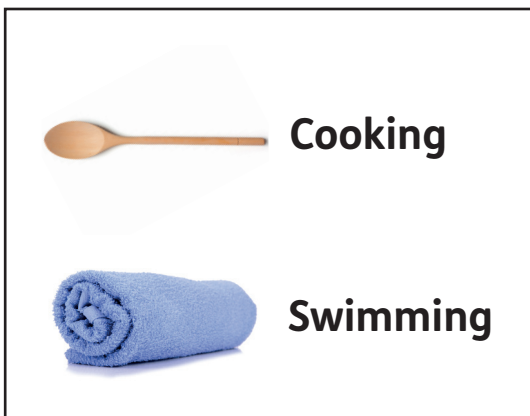
sensory



Use of symbols



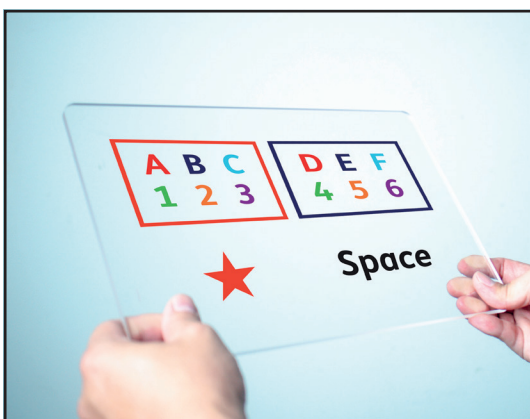
Signing



Objects of reference



Communication switches



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How I communicate

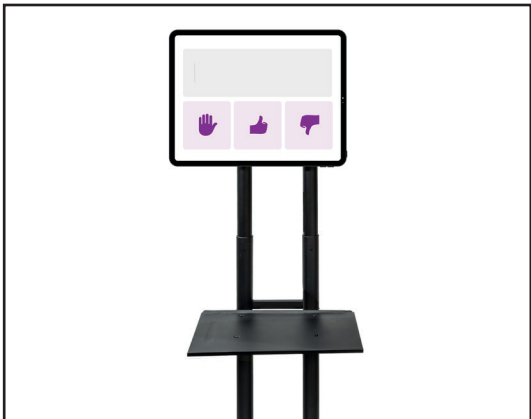
sensory



Writing or drawing



Body gestures



Eye gaze



Talking mat



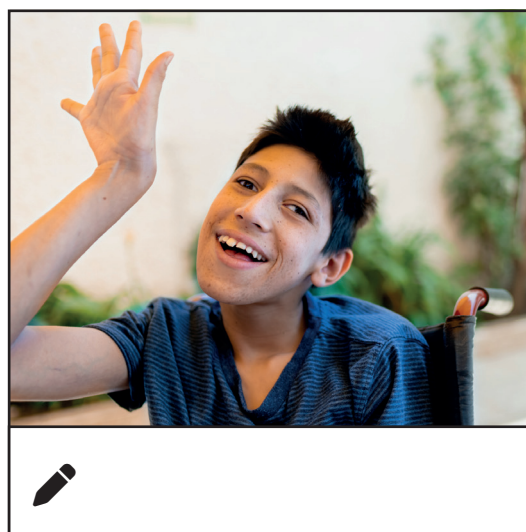
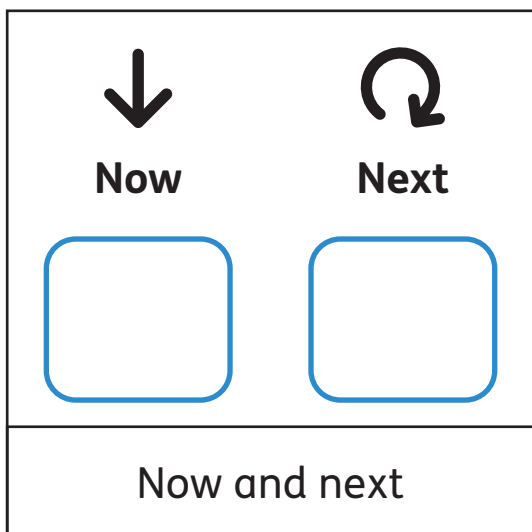
Facial expressions



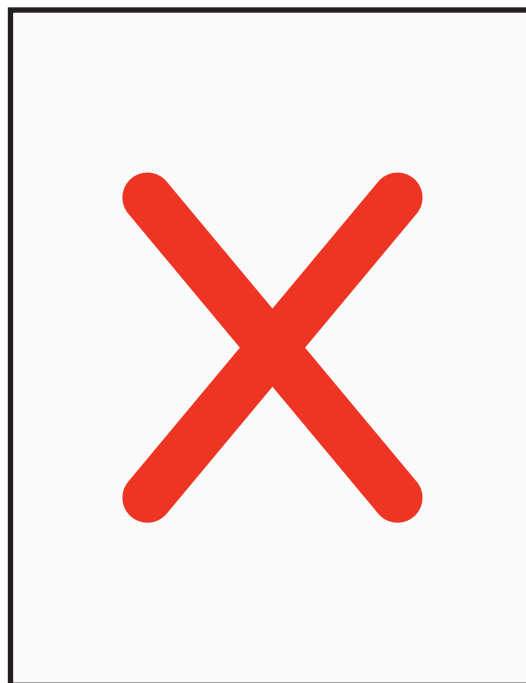
Use of speech

How I communicate

sensory



Idea: You can cut out the images or download our digital versions from our website: asdan.org.uk/towards-independence under **Course resources** at the bottom of the page.



Idea: These can be used by your learner to select a communication image.

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Engage, elevate, empower