

# Beyond Requesting: Expanding Communication

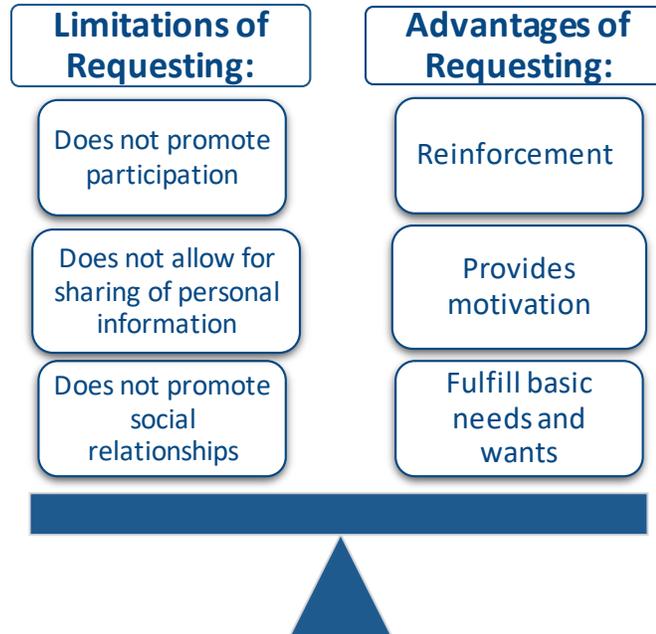
What are functions of communication?

People use communication for a variety of reasons or “functions”. A number of examples are listed below – this is not an exhaustive list!

<b>Social Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greetings and Farewells</li><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Asks for clarification</li><li>• Telling jokes</li><li>• Starting an interaction</li></ul>
<b>Requesting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Requesting an object or an action</li><li>• Protest/Reject</li><li>• Acceptance</li><li>• Communication of choices</li></ul>
<b>Information Sharing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Telling personal information</li><li>• Describing</li><li>• Sharing opinions and preferences</li><li>• Telling a story</li><li>• Sharing feelings</li></ul>
<b>Asking Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asking for assistance</li><li>• Requesting information- in conversation, in school settings, in the community</li></ul>

Why is there so much focus on requesting? Requesting is...

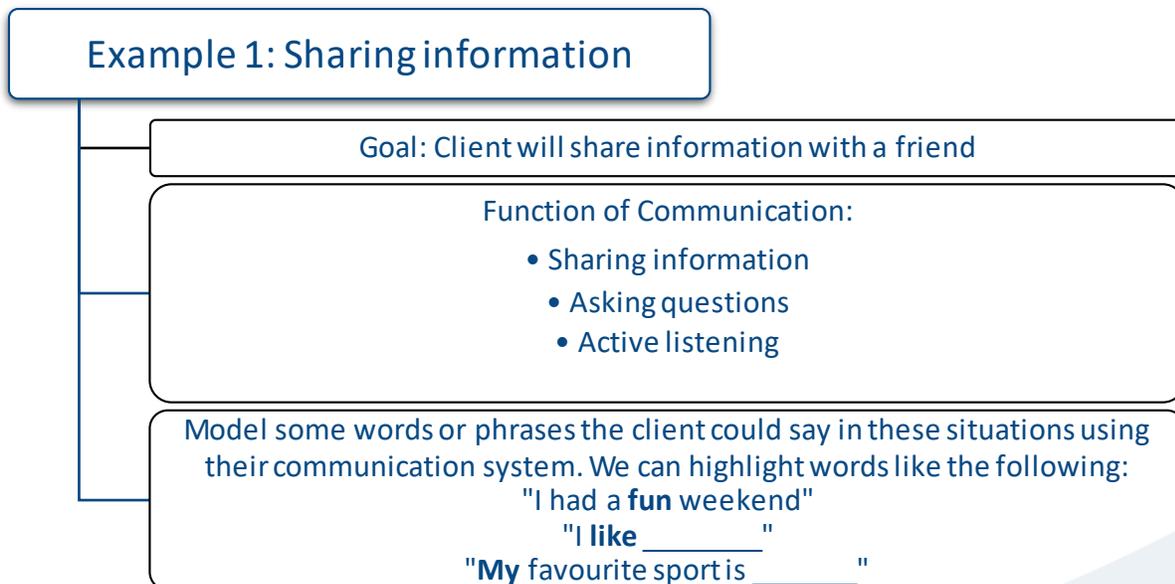
- Motivating
- Concrete
- Reinforcing
- Requests allow people to fulfill basic needs and wants, i.e., food, comfort, activities



### Start by Prompting!

- When teaching any new communication skill you will typically need to give more support or prompting at the beginning and less as the client becomes more successful.
- Consider how you will prompt and show them how to use their device – see “Prompting hierarchy” handout for more information on prompts

### Setting Goals: Think beyond requesting...



## Example 2: Asking Questions

Goal: Client will ask information from a friend

Function of Communication: Asking questions

Practice asking questions using the client's communication system

Model questions such as – “**What** is your favourite hockey team?”, “**What colour** would you **like**?”, “**Where** are you going?”, “**Who** is that?”

- It's important for the client to see other communicators model the target phrase or word many times
- Model how to share information everyday – using the client's device
- Remember – you do not need to select every word on the communication device. Try modeling one or two words on the device and using your voice to ask the whole question. Ex: Select “what” and “colour” on the device, and use your voice to ask “What colour do you want?”