

## Partner Strategies to Support Children with Communication Difficulties

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- Increase individual's awareness of communication breakdown - tell them if you don't understand!
- Repeat what you think you understand, ex. "I heard you say..."
- Ask the individual to use specific strategies to maximize speech intelligibility, ex. "use all your sounds", "slow down", etc.
- Ask "yes/no" questions from general to more specific, ex. "Are you telling me about school?" "About someone in your class?"
- Ask questions with a choice format, ex. "Is it about a friend or teacher?"
- Ask "wh" questions to narrow the topic, ex. "Who", "What", "When", "Where"
- Ask the individual to use specific strategies to increase comprehensibility, ex. "Can you act it out?", "Show me", "Tell me another way."
- Direct the individual to specific AAC strategies and model the use of strategies, ex. "Let's see if we can find it in your book.", "Can you use your topic board to tell me?"

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**The role of the partner is crucial!**

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Adapted from Communication & Writing Aids Service, Bloorview Kids Rehab (formally known as Bloorview MacMillen Children's Centre), November 2002.

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