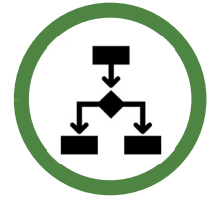




Decision Making Skills: 02 Receptive

Affirm, Deny, Agree



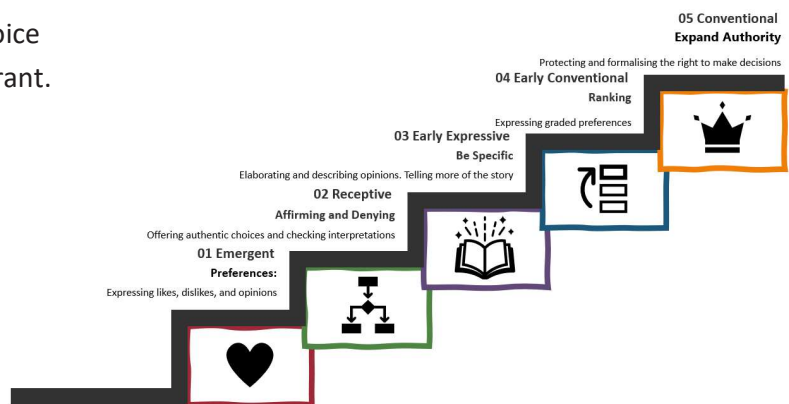
An individual demonstrating skills at this stage may:

- Still be relying on others to interpret their facial expressions, body language, and behaviours
- Be able to confirm that the interpretations of others are correct or incorrect
- Show that an interpretation is correct by smiling, or incorrect by frowning (or by any other behaviour observed).
- Need help to add conditions to their choices (yes coffee, but with no milk)
- Need help to ask for something which has not been offered.
- Not a choice if can ask for something that was not offered.

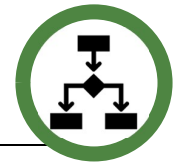
Selection from a 'menu' is not choice unless you can choose the restaurant.

Goals at this stage:

- Offering authentic choices and checking interpretations
- Support the individual to express whether they are being interpreted correctly
- Support communication partners to be consistent in how they understand and respond to the individual's preferences
- Increasing opportunities for interaction with diverse partners
- Ensuring someone has both the means and opportunities to make real choices, and not have those choices limited by others.



Decision Making Skills: 02 Receptive



Strategies to support an individual demonstrating skills at this stage

Personal Communication Dictionary

A communication dictionary is a valuable tool for an individual who has complex communication needs.

It contains information about the unique or unconventional ways they communicate, and what others should do in response.

The dictionary acts as a common reference for understanding and interpreting what the individual is doing and how others should respond.

The individual has the chance to ensure their choices are recognised and respected.

Modelling Augmentative and Alternative Communication Strategies

Using AAC strategies to highlight spoken words can support an individual to understand what is being said to them as well as add clear language in a way they could access in the future.

Modelling language helps an individual see their communication strategy being used to:

- Add conditions to choices
("I'd like a coffee, with milk and no sugar")
- Ask for other options
("What else?"; "Something different")
- To show they do not understand
("I don't understand")
- To correct someone's assumption
("You're wrong"; "That's not it")

Verbal Referencing

This strategy is used to describe the behaviour of an individual and provide them with an explicit interpretation of that behaviour.

Describing an individual's behaviour can help them refine that behaviour. It can also provide a way of giving feedback about how clear their communication attempts have been.

Example of verbal referencing:

"You're smiling. That tells me yes I got it right."

Offer Authentic Choices

For a choice to be authentic the following options must be an accepted answer:

- None of these
(Either the choice I want is not being offered, or I do not want to make a choice)
- Something different
(What I want is not being offered)
- Tell me more
(I want more information about that choice)
- But...
(I am making this choice, under this condition)

Inviting Responses

Creating an opportunity as well as an explicit invitation to respond is important in helping someone to know they are included and their input is valued.

An invitation to respond does not mean someone MUST respond.