



# Decision Making Skills: 03 Early Expressive

Being specific

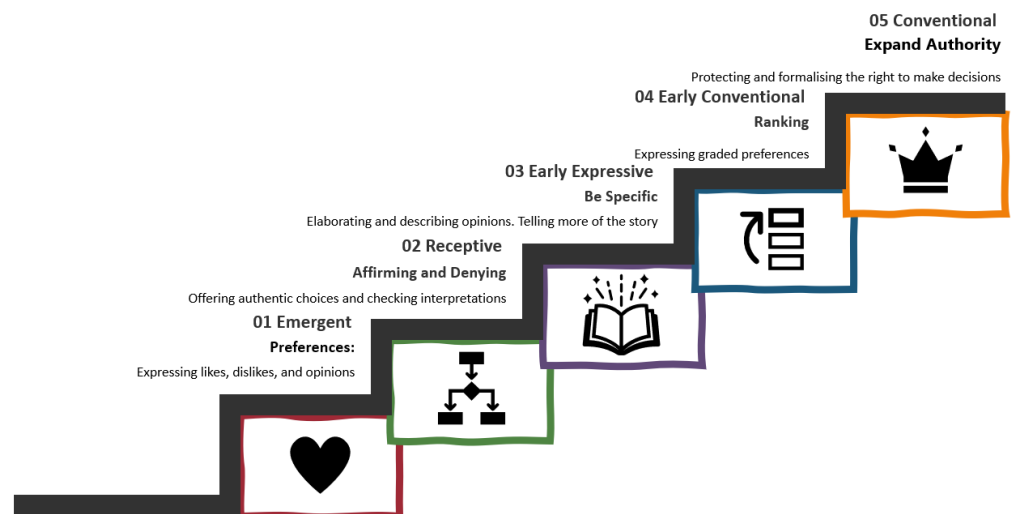


## An individual demonstrating skills at this stage may:

- Elaborate on their choices to describe the reason for their opinion.  
“Don’t like. Noisy”
- Demonstrate an understanding of abstract choices, given the required information.

## Goals at this stage:

- Elaborating and describing opinions to tell more of the story.
- Support the individual to express ‘why’ they have that opinion.
- Support communication partners to be consistent in how they understand and respond to the individual’s opinions.
- Invite responses which expand with a ‘why’
- Expand a response to explain further details about an opinion.
- Ensuring someone has both the means and opportunities to expand their message to be more specific.





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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.

What I do:	What this could mean:	What you should do:
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## 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:

- Explain why  
“I don’t like it. It’s too cold”  
“I want to live here. It is with my friend”

## Verbal Referencing

This strategy is used to describe the behaviour of an individual and provide them with an explicit interpretation of that behaviour, and then add further information about that opinion.

This starts to add more detail about how the individual could express and describe their opinions.

Being able to elaborate on an opinion can help others start to understand why and provide information.

“You’re covering your eyes. I think you do not like this. Maybe it’s too bright”

## Receptive Communication Charts

A receptive communication chart can be valuable tool for an individual who has complex communication needs and difficulty processing speech by itself.

It provides people with information on how that individual needs to receive information to best understand it.

The tool can be used to:

- Describe what is needed to support a verbal explanation
- Provide a consistent structure to explanations

We need to tell them:	To do this we:	Helped and supported by:
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