

Communication Forms and Functions Worksheet

Student:

Form completed by:

Date completed:

Communication **forms** are the behaviors we use to communicate. (the "how")

Communication **functions** are the reasons we communicate. (the "why")

Communication **partners** are the people we communicate with. (the "who")

Communication **contexts** are the places where we communicate. (the "where")

Communication **opportunities** are the times when we have the chance to communicate. (the "when")

Communication **messages** are the meanings in what people communicate. (the "what")

Comm. Function	Examples	What student says/does: Please include information about partners, forms, contexts, messages, and opportunities.	What student says/does IN WALKER or OTHER POSITIONING DEVICES, if different
Protest	Needs to participate in activity & doesn't want to, doesn't want offered item		
Refuse, Reject	Offer him something he doesn't like		

Comm. Function	Examples	What student says/does: Please include information about partners, forms, contexts, messages, and opportunities.	What student says/does IN WALKER or OTHER POSITIONING DEVICES, if different
Request more of an action	When engaged in a favorite game/ action routine/ playing you each take several turns & then stop & wait expectantly.		
Request a new action	Is bored or tired with something he is doing, he wants to do something else.		
Request more of an object	Likes what he is eating, wants another one. Likes the toys he is being offered, wants another one.		
Communicates a choice between 2 or more	When offered two or more options, he communicates his choice.		

Adapted from the work of Amy Weatherby (1995) and Kathleen Quill (1995) by the Bridge School.

Comm. Function	Examples	What student says/does: Please include information about partners, forms, contexts, messages, and opportunities.	What student says/does IN WALKER or OTHER POSITIONING DEVICES, if different
Request new object	Wants object out of reach or out of sight.		
Request absent object	Wants object in other room, out of sight/hearing		
Request attention	He wants to get someone's attention		
Show affection	Hugs, kisses, pat on back, just because.		

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Comm. Function	Examples	What student says/does: Please include information about partners, forms, contexts, messages, and opportunities.	What student says/does IN WALKER or OTHER POSITIONING DEVICES, if different
Greet People	A familiar person arrives or is leaving		-
Offers, Shares	Wants to point out something he likes to another person.		
Directs your Attention	Sees an interesting person or object, action; or needs help with task		
Polite social forms	Ask permission, child wants to go outside		

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Comm. Function	Examples	What student says/does: Please include information about partners, forms, contexts, messages, and opportunities.	What student says/does IN WALKER or OTHER POSITIONING DEVICES, if different
Answers yes/no questions	Ask him if he wants a favorite food.		
Ask Questions	Child sees something or someone new		
Names Things/ People	Says the name of people, things, places.		
Makes Comments	Sees an interesting person or object, action		

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