

Gesture and Write as You Talk to Support Communication

Description

- Emphasize what you are saying by using facial expressions and gestures – or by writing or drawing key concepts as you talk.
- Encourage the person to communicate with facial expressions, gestures, printed words and drawings.



Benefit

To help people express themselves and understand messages of conversation partners. Use of these strategies may benefit people who have difficulty hearing and/or understanding spoken messages, including those who are unable to wear their amplification device (e.g., hearing aid). People who have difficulties with verbal expression can also benefit from these strategies.

Tips

- Speak slowly and clearly, emphasizing key words and concepts.
- Use simple gestures and facial expressions.
- Write key words.
- Use pictures, photos or simple drawings.
- Keep a notepad, whiteboard, or tablet handy.

| MESSAGE IN | MESSAGE OUT | CHECKING IN |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gesture eating as you say, "it's time for lunch."• Grimace and hold your forehead as you ask, "Do you have a headache?".• Write: 4pm - x-ray | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage person to use facial expressions, gestures, drawings and printed words, along with sounds, to communicate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repeat and rephrase what you think the person has told you, writing or gesturing key words.• Observe their non-verbal signals to see if you have it right. |

See [AHS.ca Communication Access](https://www.alberta.ca/communication-access) for more Communication Access information. For further learning and support, please contact your local audiologist, speech-language pathologist or practice.consultation@ahs.ca.



COMMUNICATION ACCESS

Alberta Health Services