

# Facilitating Communication!

(Musselwhite & Wagner, 2002)

## **Partner Role = Just Talk!**

Your role is to talk with the AAC user. Try to find out the best way to communicate. What works best with this person? Here are some ideas for getting started:

- Yes / No questions ('Do you want chocolate?')
- WH Questions ('What do you like on your cone?')
- Open Ended Prompts ('Tell me about your family')
- Multiple Choice Options (So, do you want chocolate? . . . vanilla? . . .)

Be sure to be a good **listener** too! Here are tips:

- Look at the AAC user, not his or her facilitator
- **PAUSE!** Be sure to give the AAC user time to talk!
- Take turns communicating - you get a turn, and the AAC user gets a turn

## **Facilitator Role = Be Seen & Not Heard**

Your role is to support the AAC user **ONLY** if needed.

Let the user communicate, and only give general suggestions, or help when there is a communication

breakdown. Here are some tips:

- Get out of sight - sit or kneel behind the user if possible
- Avoid eye contact with the communication partner - if they're not looking at you, hopefully they will communicate better with the AAC user
- **WHISPER!** Only the AAC user should be able to hear you!
- Give general help, such as showing the user how to get on the page for talking about feelings or animals
- Do not talk directly to the communication partner unless there is a total breakdown of communication; then only talk enough to get back on track!