

AT Tech Tip:

Communication Strategies for: Twenty Questions



InterACT Team
The Interdisciplinary Augmentative Communication & Technology Team

Communication Partner	Student Response
<p>The communication partner asks a series of yes/no questions in order to determine what the student is trying to convey.</p>	<p>The student indicates “yes” or “no” through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eye movements • head nods • arm/hand movements • speech approximations • eye gaze towards words or symbols representing “yes” or “no” • touching the “yes” or “no” symbols • voice-output switch (with a messages programmed such as “That’s it”, etc.)
<p>Examples: Are you upset about something that happened this morning? (yes)</p> <p>Did it happen on the bus? (no)</p> <p>Did it happen at home? (yes)</p> <p>Did you forget something at home? (yes)</p> <p>Did you forget your backpack? (no)</p> <p>Did you forget your lunch money? (no)</p> <p>Did you forget your homework? (yes)</p> <p>Oh, you are upset that you forgot your homework. Let’s see what can be done about that.</p>	<p>Student answers each question with a “yes” or “no” response</p>
<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an effective method for communication when you are trying to narrow down what the student is attempting to communicate • This strategy can be used anytime within any setting 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a passive communication method as the student must rely on the communication partner to ask the exact questions that will help him/her convey his intended message • Student must have reliable yes-no responses • Time-consuming