

Speak Up and be Safe from Abuse Communication board Things - board 1 of 2

Instructions - This communication board set has a picture board, alphabet board, female and male body boards. Place the boards on a flat surface or hold where the person can see it/point to it. The person will point to pictures or letters. If the person cannot point - ask row by row, and then column by column, to find out the message. There is a place to draw/ write on the alphabet boards. If you need more words, use the Speak Up and be Safe from Abuse Communication Book.



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How to use the boards

Place/hold the boards where I can see it/point to it.

Direct access - The person will turn the pages and point to the relevant pictures in these boards. Supported, direct access – You turn the pages and the person points to the relevant pictures, letters, numbers and words in these boards.

Indirect access

- Look where the person is looking on the boards.
- Ask the person row by row where the word is. When the person indicates "yes", ask the person column by column where the message is.

Give the person extra time to answer questions.

If the person can spell, get the alphabet board (ABC or QWERTY). This may help with specific information, such as names.

How to start the conversation

"I've noticed you..." (e.g. seem unhappy, not sleeping well, not eating) or "You asked to talk about something, what has happened?" Ask open-ended questions. For example, "What happened? / Tell me more"

Confirm with simple yes/no questions. "You told me – at home – is that correct". Summarise/repeat to check if you have understood correctly.

Speak in short sentences. Talk about one idea at a time.

If the person struggles to initiate, you may need to specifically ask for information from each set of the boards, e.g. Actions, places, people, etc. Only use this method if the person is unable to spontaneously provide the information

Offer support to the person

"Do you feel safe?" "What can I do to help you feel safe?" "What would you like me to do next?"

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Record sheet

Use the Speak Up and be Safe from Abuse record sheet to record information about your conversation.



