

Supporting learners to say no

This means giving individuals the opportunity to reject or refuse objects or events, for example asking: 'do you need the loo?' or offering the option of moving on to another type of activity or more of the activity they have just tried. The response could be a gesture and/or vocalisation or it could be a change in orientation or facial expression or an eye point.

Case study

Louise demonstrates a wide range of responses that staff interpret as like, dislike, want or don't want. She is just beginning to communicate intentionally. However she is severely limited physically. Thus, a frown plus puckering of her lips indicates she does not want a drink of water.

Adapted from Coupe O'Kane, J.C. and Goldbart, J. (1998) *Communication Before Speech: Development and Assessment* (2nd edn). London: David Fulton Publishers.

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