

Vocalisation

People with profound and complex learning difficulties can use their voice to good effect, even when they do not develop language, by developing a repertoire of meaningful sounds.

The Enhancing the Quality of Life publication gives examples on how to develop vocalisations into meaningful communication for people with profound and complex needs. (see “references” for details of how to order this resource)

This extract describes how staff in one organisation use a “good morning” activity to support an individual to communicate verbally by interpreting and repeating his sounds.

“Robert is encouraged to use his voice, together with the ‘thumbs up’ sign, as a form of greeting. When other members of his group are saying hello’ to one another in the morning, staff invite Robert to say ‘ah — ah’ and to stick up his thumb. Other members of the group respond to Robert’s vocalisation verbally and with signs.

Enhancing the Quality of Life

These ideas are based on the *Enhancing Quality of Life Resource Pack*, Byers, R., Dee, L., Hayhoe, H. and Maudslay, L. (2002) *Enhancing Quality of Life*. London: Skill and University of Cambridge, which draws upon the experience of practitioners working with people with profound and complex learning difficulties across a range of contexts and in a variety of ways.

See [references](#) for details of how to order this resource.