

Requesting - Pointing

tags: Communication, language, requesting

Communicating wants and needs is a fundamental construct of communication. Gestural communication precedes symbolic (verbal or advanced alternative) form of communication.

If an individual initially grabs, keep desired item in a clear container and physically prompt the hand to a point to touch item. Most, not all individuals have the capability to point and a full hand touch is their ceiling on the skill set. If there are any questions regarding fine motor skills ask an occupational therapist for their opinion on what level would be appropriate. “What do you want?” precedes the direction touch. Motivation to get a desired item is intrinsically stronger than following a direction,

SD: “What do you want?”

SD: “Touch”

| | Pointing | Date Introduced “want” / “touch” | Date Mastered “want” / “touch” | Notes |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Full hand touch- desired item | / | / | |
| 2 | Point- isolated desired item | / | / | |
| 3 | Point- choice between 2 items (1 preferred and 1 non-preferred) | / | / | |
| 4 | Point- choice between 3 items (1 preferred and 2 non-preferred) | / | / | |
| 5 | Point- selecting amongst preferred and non-preferred items with and without SD | | | |

