



Partner Assisted Scanning Instructions

Goal: To support communication in individuals who are unable to express themselves verbally, and who have difficulty pointing to items on a communication board.

Method:

1. Establish how the communicator will signal “yes” and “no”.
(eg. Vocalizations, head gestures, blinking, tapping a hand/foot etc.)
2. Hold the board so that both you & the communicator can see the messages.
3. Point to the first row and ask “**Is your message in this row?**”
If yes, move to step 4.
If no response, slowly point to each row until the communicator indicates “**yes**”.
4. Slowly point to each item in the row, while reading the message out loud.
Continue until the communicator signals “**yes**”.

Tips for success:

- ❖ **Go slow & wait.** Some people need more time to initiate a response.
- ❖ Ask the client to signal **yes** only. Constantly signaling **no** can be exhausting!
- ❖ Once the message is identified, ask **a Yes/No question to verify the message.**
This gives the communicator a chance to correct any miscommunications.
- ❖ Use the same Partner Assisted Scanning method to **spell words and phrases on an Alphabet Board.** Try **writing the letters on a piece of paper or a whiteboard** to keep track of the person’s message.