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Seven Essential Skills to Enhance Communication

1. Watch and listen for anything to which you can respond. Respond to any movement or sound that the person makes as if it has communication intention.
2. Augment communication. Add pictures, drawings, printed or handwritten words, and objects to enhance and expand communication opportunities.
3. Assess the communication and relationship development skills of:
 - All communicators with special needs
 - All staff of all kinds and family members
4. Create goals that enhance the communicative impact each person can have on others and on the environment.
5. Slow down your communication. Use shorter sentences. Pause between sentences. Use a quiet voice.
6. Watch for and wait for a response using Structured Waiting: say it once and then be still, quiet, and attentive.
7. Don't talk about people in front of them as if they are not there.