



Why Communicate? –Reasons

People talk for many reasons
–not just to ask for things.



4 Important Reasons to Communicate

1. Requesting

- » Telling others what we want
- » Making choices
- » Telling others when we need help
- » Controlling our environment.

2. Rejecting or Protesting

- » Escaping from a situation or a demand.
- » Saying “No”
- » Avoiding something we don’t want or like.

3. Social Connection

- » Meeting emotional needs
- » Gaining attention
- » Greeting people.
- » Telling jokes.
- » Sharing feelings.

» Starting a conversation

» Forming friendships and closeness with

» Building relationships and making them stronger.

4. Sharing Information & Opinions

» Early forms are naming and labeling

» Answering questions

» Telling about what happened

» Sharing information that others need

» Giving directions to others”

What if someone can’t communicate or be understood?

- Might resort to throwing something, crying, screaming, or even lashing out physically

• Not being able to reject or protest is scary. You don’t have control over what happens to you.

• May be able to tell some of their likes & dislikes by their behavior (Such as. turning away, a look of disgust, smiling, reaching)

• Consider AAC to help the person communicate

Why is only requesting usually the focus with AAC?

• Requesting helps the person to get what they want immediately and that feels good.

• Usually first reason to communicate using AAC, but not the only reason

• Sharing information, telling stories, making comments, and telling us what they think makes real connections possible