

Communication Chart

When this happens... (the environment)	I do this...	It usually means...	And I want you to...

Guide to completing a communication chart

When filling out the chart, it is easiest to start with the “I do this” column because that is the observable behavior. From there, you can identify the environments/contexts in which the action occurs. Keep in mind, one behavior might mean different things depending on the environment or context.

When this happens: This is the environmental context. Where are you? What is going on around you? This could be the “trigger” of a behavior. Examples: at the office, at home, at the recreation center, in the bathroom, during an ISP meeting, while watching TV, while walking in the neighborhood, when I meet a new person

I do this: This is the actual behavior that occurs. This is observable; what other people would notice. Examples: crying, smiling, walking quickly, staring, making a loud noise, saying “bubbles” (or any word that might have some specific meaning)

It usually means: This is what we have learned the action means. Identify the emotions or feelings that are likely going on inside the person.

And I want you to: This is what other people should do or say in response to the person’s actions. Also identify what others should NOT do or say in response.