

Non-Traditional Communicators

Go to original PDF

What I Wish My Doctor Knew About Non-Traditional Communicators

Medical Alert

- As with all people assume they are intelligent and competent until they prove otherwise!
- Speak normally (tone, volume, speed) unless asked to do otherwise.
- Be patient ? almost all non-traditional communication methods are extremely slow.
- Don?t fill the ?silence? while the other person is composing a thought with more of your own speech; allow both parties to say a reasonable amount.

- Take turns speaking ? say a short amount and then give the other person a chance to speak; be careful of interrupting; try not to talk about more than one idea at a time.
- Acknowledge and rephrase communication attempts. When responding to a question, include the question in your response to let the person know that you heard and understood them.
- Don?t ask them to ?perform? for you by asking them to say certain words or asking questions just to watch them communicate ? do not treat people like zoo exhibits.
- Don?t worry about saying they ?speak? or you are ?talking? to them.
- Let the person know if you don?t understand something.
- Offer to find a place to sit or remain stationary if the person is trying to type or write the conversation ? most have trouble ?timing? communication to occur during extremely short pauses.
- Don?t ?take advantage? of the communication difference (for example, don?t refuse to read a written message as a way of silencing disagreement).
- If someone uses an interpreter or assistant, address communication to the communicator, not the assistant or interpreter.
- Don?t touch people?s communication devices.
- Extensive question and answer sessions about their communication methods can be annoying to many; ask if the person minds before engaging in extensive questions.
- If you notice someone typing or writing otherwise composing a thought, give them a chance to say something when you are done speaking.
- Ask before assuming the person would like you to finish her sentences.
- Don?t pretend that there is no communication difference!
- The best communication is when both parties remain calm, relaxed, and interact as they would if both parties spoke normally.

Document

https://odpc.ucsf.edu/sites/odpc.ucsf.edu/files/pdf_docs/wiw%20non%20trad%20communicators%20final.pdf

Language

English

Document Tags:

Advocacy [1]

Advice from Self-Advocates [2]

Display PDF

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PRIMARY CARE

500 Parnassus Ave, Box 0900

San Francisco, CA 94143

Phone: (415) 476-4641 **Fax:** (415) 476-6051

-
-

Site Map
UCSF Main Site

© 2018 The Regents of the University of California

Source URL: <https://odpc.ucsf.edu/advocacy/advice-from-self-advocates/non-traditional-communicators>

Links

[1] <https://odpc.ucsf.edu/advocacy>

[2] <https://odpc.ucsf.edu/advocacy/advice-from-self-advocates>