

Positive Interaction Strategies for Peers

1. Ask questions and interact often

- Think about ways you can provide opportunities to communicate
- You may want to think about asking them questions that involve “who”, “what”, or “where”, not just yes or no questions

2. If your classmate uses a communication device, model it

- You can use symbols on the device while you talk with them
- Make it your goal to use the device as often as you can

3. Pause and wait for your classmate to communicate before helping them

- When interacting with your classmate, always give them plenty of time to respond
- Look at them to show them that you want them to respond
- After you have paused at least 2-3 seconds, you can show them that you want them to communicate by pointing to their communication device

4. Help if needed, but always after waiting

Ways to help may include:

- Making sure the communication device is on and within reach
- Navigating to the page on the communication device with the words needed to respond to you
- Providing two choices on their device that might answer your question by pointing to each symbol and reading it out loud
- Pointing to one symbol on the device or modeling the symbol

5. Respond to your classmate's communication

- Always acknowledge your classmate's communication and respond
- If you do not understand, or your classmate's communication does not make sense, ask them if that is what they really mean or rephrase your question
 - “Do you mean _____?”
 - “I don't understand. Can you tell me again? I asked you _____.”