

# THE COMMUNICATION CONTINUUM

Leanne Grillot



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# Learning Objectives

- Identify three communication tools for use with individuals with visual and multiple impairments.
- Differentiate the three communication tools paired with various needs of individuals with visual and multiple impairments.
- Describe three techniques for modifying instructional methods in communication for individuals with visual and multiple impairments.

# Sensorimotor Stage



# Preoperational Stage





# Concrete Operational Stage



# Piaget's Stages of Cognitive Development

**Sensorimotor**

**Preoperational**

**Concrete Operational**



# Continuum of Communication Tools

- Sensory Learning Kit
  - Sensorimotor
- Symbols and Meaning
  - Sensorimotor
  - Preoperational
- Tactile Connections
  - Preoperational



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# Special Products

- Students with visual impairments
- Students with visual impairments and multiple disabilities



# The Sensory Learning Kit



# Sensorimotor Learning

## Muscles Responding

- Seeing
- Touching
- Tasting
- Hearing
- Smelling
- Moving

# ON YOUR CASELOAD, HOW MANY STUDENTS FUNCTION AT THE SENSORIMOTOR STAGE?

None

1-4

5-10

More than 10



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# Symbols and Meaning



# Concept Categories

- People
- Objects
- Actions
- Places

# Construction of Schemas

- Own body
- People, objects, and actions touching the body
- People, objects, actions, and places beyond the body
- People-object-action-place relationships in events beyond the body

# Sensory Information



# IN YOUR PRACTICE, WHICH TWO ITEMS DO YOU PAIR MOST?

Seeing

Touching

Tasting

Hearing

Smelling

Moving



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# Sensory Bridging



# Building Word Symbol Bridges



# Using Language While Teaching

## Chatter or Instruction

- Comments
- Questions
- Comments



# Rephrasing



# Tactile Connections Kit





# Categories and Mounting Cards

Person – yellow crown shape

Place – red barn shape

Action – green house shape

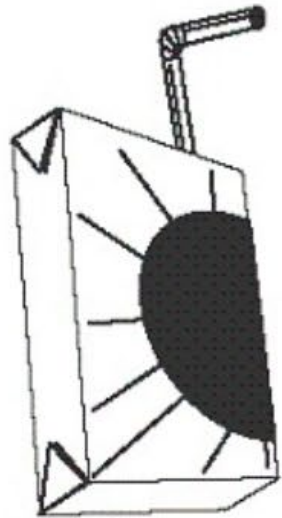
Time – blue puzzle shape

Object – white bread shape

Expression – black rectangle shape

Expansion – gray scalloped shape

# Tactile Skills



Whole object



Piece of object  
mounted



Piece of object  
on card with label

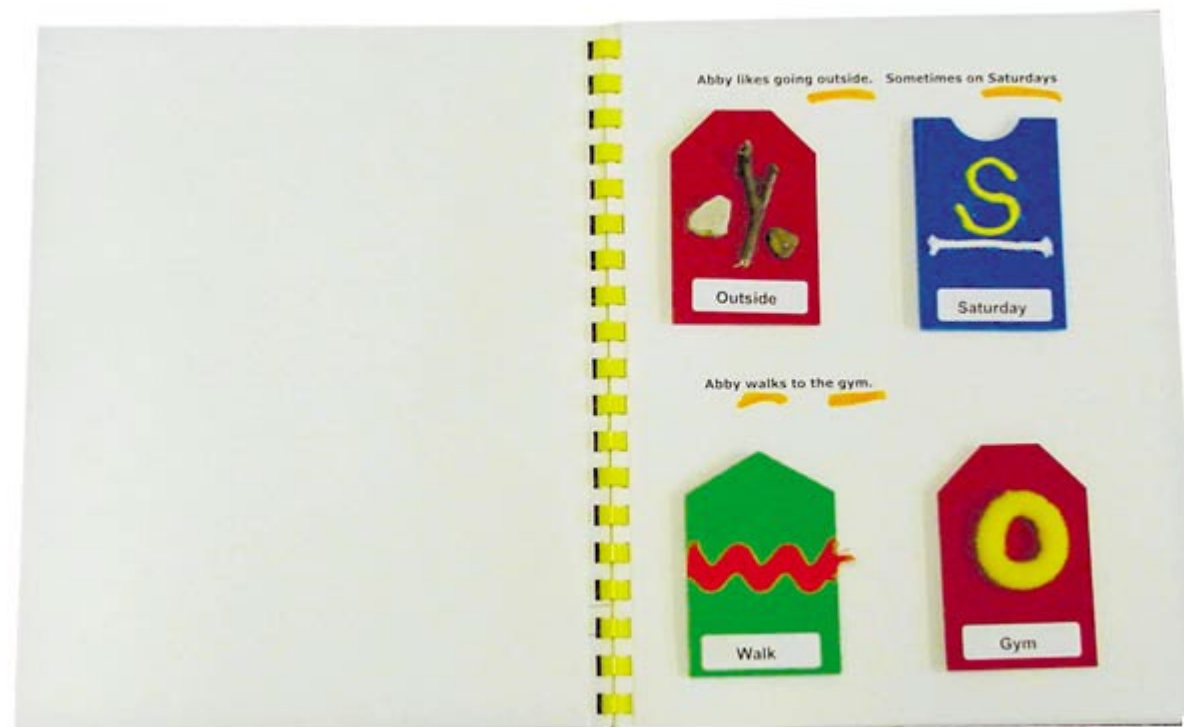


Label only

# Teaching Strategies - Independence



# Teaching Strategies - Experience Stories



# WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD WITH COMMUNICATION SYMBOLS?

Photos

Colored drawings

Black and white line drawings

Objects

Pieces of objects

Representational objects



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# Modifications for Sensorimotor

- Bright Colors
- Slow Moving
- One or Two Objects
- Repetition





# Modifications for In-Between



- Increase Complexity
- Use Real Objects
- Increase Cues
- Use Simple but Descriptive Words
- Build Routines

# Modifying Methods for PreOperational

- Maintain Contrast
- Address Clutter
- Frame Targets
- Continue  
Increased Lighting



# HOW DID YOU DO?

21 answers – I'm a rock star!

15-20 answers – I lost internet for a minute!

8-14 answers – I was interrupted by a mail delivery!

0-7 answers – A student needed me! I  
need to watch the recording.



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