

## **The Speech Parent Resource Guide**

### ***Picture Communication For the Parent***

Dear Parent,

It is felt that your child may benefit from the use of pictures to help them communicate. For some children that have difficulty communicating, use of pictures can help decrease frustration so that the child can have another outlet to communicate. Use of pictures is similar to using sign language in that we are giving the child an additional way to communicate. It is not taking away from verbal communication. It can be considered a bridge to communication and may help decrease your child's frustration. I still always encourage verbal communication. I will speak more with you regarding what type of pictures we can use. Some examples of using pictures to communicate is to take pictures of your child's favorite foods and keep them on the refrigerator so that your child can show you in the picture what they would like to eat, if, for example, it is too difficult for your child to verbally tell you what they would like to eat. Another way that picture

### ***Language Comprehension For the Parent***

Dear Parent,

Your child seems to be having difficulty understanding language. We will be working on this and we can talk more regarding specific activities. Here are some strategies that may help:

1. Simplify directions for your child. An example of this would be saying "go get your shoes" rather than "I need you to go get your shoes from your bedroom" You can also simplify questions for your child. If your child is having some difficulty answering questions, there are some ways to make it easier. If you notice difficulty with open ended questions (like- "Where are we going today?"), you can make it easier by asking a choice question (like "Are we going to the store or to grandma's today?") You can also try asking your child a yes/no question (ex:"Are we going to grandma's today?") You don't have to do things at such a simple level but you should be aware if you are asking your child questions and or providing directions to your child and your child does not seem to understand or follow through with what you are asking of them.
2. Use gestures as an aide. For example, if you asked your child to go get their coat and they were unable to comprehend, point to their coat as you are saying the directive.
3. Use visual cues. For example- if you want your child to be able to remember something better try doing something such as taking a picture. If you go somewhere fun, take a picture of it so that your child will have a visual cue...