

# THE COMMUNICATION CHAMPION PLAN

**CLIENT:**

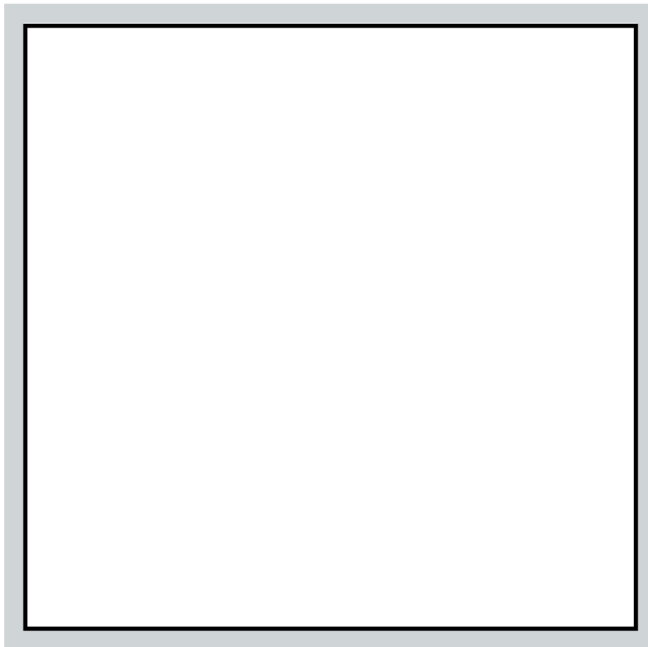
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## **PURPOSE**

The Communication Champion Plan helps parents of children with limited verbal or non-verbal communication skills teach functional communication and reduce frustration. Whether using speech, sign language, AAC, or gestures, this plan provides structured strategies to help children express needs, wants, and emotions effectively.

## **SPECIFIC NEEDS FOR THIS FAMILY:**

(Use the space below to document the unique characteristics or challenges of the family you are working with.)



## **FAMILY PROFILE**

Typical Characteristics of Families Who Need This Plan:

- ☐ Child has limited communication skills and struggles to express needs.
- ☐ Frequent frustration or challenging behaviors due to communication barriers.
- ☐ Parents feel unsure how to support communication or choose the right method.
- ☐ Need structured guidance to teach and reinforce communication strategies.
- ☐ May be uncertain about AAC and how it impacts speech development.

# GOAL SETTING

## RECOMMENDED AND EXAMPLE GOALS

### Select or Customize Goals

Choose from the recommended goals below or write your own to align with the family's specific needs.

#### Functional Communication

- ☐ Parent will use the child's preferred communication method (speech, AAC, sign, gestures) in 3 daily routines.
- ☐ Parent will prompt and reinforce at least 5 communication attempts per day.

#### Generalization & Consistency

- ☐ Parent will use communication strategies in 2 different settings (home, school, community).
- ☐ Parent will track communication progress for two weeks and adjust strategies as needed.

#### Expanding Expressive Communication

- ☐ Parent will reinforce and shape communication attempts in 80% of opportunities.
- ☐ Parent will model and encourage 3 new words, signs, or AAC requests in two weeks.

#### Reducing Communication-Related Frustration

- ☐ Parent will identify 3 frustration triggers and teach an alternative way to request help.
- ☐ Parent will follow a structured plan when the child uses behavior instead of communication.

**Customized Goals for This Family:** (Write additional or revised goals specific to the family.)

# RECOMMENDED LESSONS

Below is the recommended sequence of lessons for a family who fits this profile. As they gain skills and confidence, you can add new lessons or move to a different plan.

## **1. Introduction to Expressive Communication**

This lesson introduces different communication methods, including speech, sign language, AAC, and gestures, helping parents determine the best approach for their child. Parents need a clear understanding of communication options to choose an effective and realistic strategy for their child's needs.

## **2. Teaching Requesting (Manding)**

Parents learn how to teach their child to request items, activities, or assistance using their preferred communication method, reducing frustration and increasing independence. Requesting is often the first functional communication skill a child learns and is essential for meeting basic needs.

## **3. Reinforcement**

This lesson explains how to strengthen communication skills by providing effective reinforcement, ensuring the child continues using newly learned words, signs, or AAC. Reinforcement encourages consistent use of communication and helps prevent regression.

## **4. Expanding Spontaneous Vocal Behavior and Vocal Imitation (Echoics)**

Parents learn techniques to encourage their child to make vocal sounds and shape those sounds into meaningful words over time. Encouraging vocalization increases the likelihood of developing speech when appropriate.

## **5. Functional Communication Training (FCT)**

This lesson teaches parents how to replace problem behaviors with functional communication by helping their child express needs in an appropriate way. Many children engage in challenging behavior due to communication difficulties, making this lesson essential for behavior reduction.

## **6. Responding to the Communication of Others (Intraverbals)**

Parents learn how to help their child respond to others, such as answering questions and engaging in simple conversations. Expanding beyond requesting allows the child to develop social communication and participate in interactions more effectively.

# RECOMMENDED LESSONS

## 7. Building a Collaborative Relationship with Your Child

This lesson helps parents foster a positive, engaging communication environment, making learning more enjoyable and reducing frustration. A strong relationship increases motivation to communicate and encourages back-and-forth interactions.

**Additional Lessons to Include (if applicable):** (Add or adjust lessons to match family needs.)

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# Engagement Tips

## **Keep It Natural and Embedded in Daily Routines**

Encourage parents to integrate communication opportunities into their child's existing activities rather than setting aside separate "teaching time." Model how to prompt communication during meals, playtime, and transitions to make it feel natural and stress-free.

## **Reinforce All Communication Attempts**

Remind parents that any attempt to communicate—whether through gestures, sounds, words, or AAC—should be acknowledged and reinforced. This builds confidence and motivation while reducing frustration.

## **Model Communication, Don't Just Demand It**

Instead of asking a child to say a word repeatedly, model the language naturally. For example, when offering a snack, say, "Apple!" before giving it to them. This removes pressure and provides a consistent language model.

**Family-Specific Engagement Notes:** (Write strategies for engaging this family, considering their strengths and concerns.)

## **Prioritize Motivation Over Perfection**

Parents may feel discouraged if their child isn't speaking clearly. Emphasize that the goal is communication, not perfect speech—whether the child uses sign language, pictures, or AAC, success comes from making their wants and needs known.

## **Reduce Pressure and Make It Fun**

Children are more likely to communicate in a relaxed, enjoyable setting. Teach parents to create playful interactions, use silly sounds, and celebrate small successes to encourage communication without stress.



# COMMON OBJECTIONS AND SOLUTIONS

**Step 1: Identify Objections** (Check or write in objections that apply to the family.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	"I'm not a speech pathologist."	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	"They get frustrated and shut down."	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	"I'm not sure what counts as progress."	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

### Step 2: Write Solutions (Document strategies to address the identified objections.)

[illegible]

# PROGRESS TRACKER

**Parent Goals:** (Outline specific goals for parents based on the lessons and their needs.)

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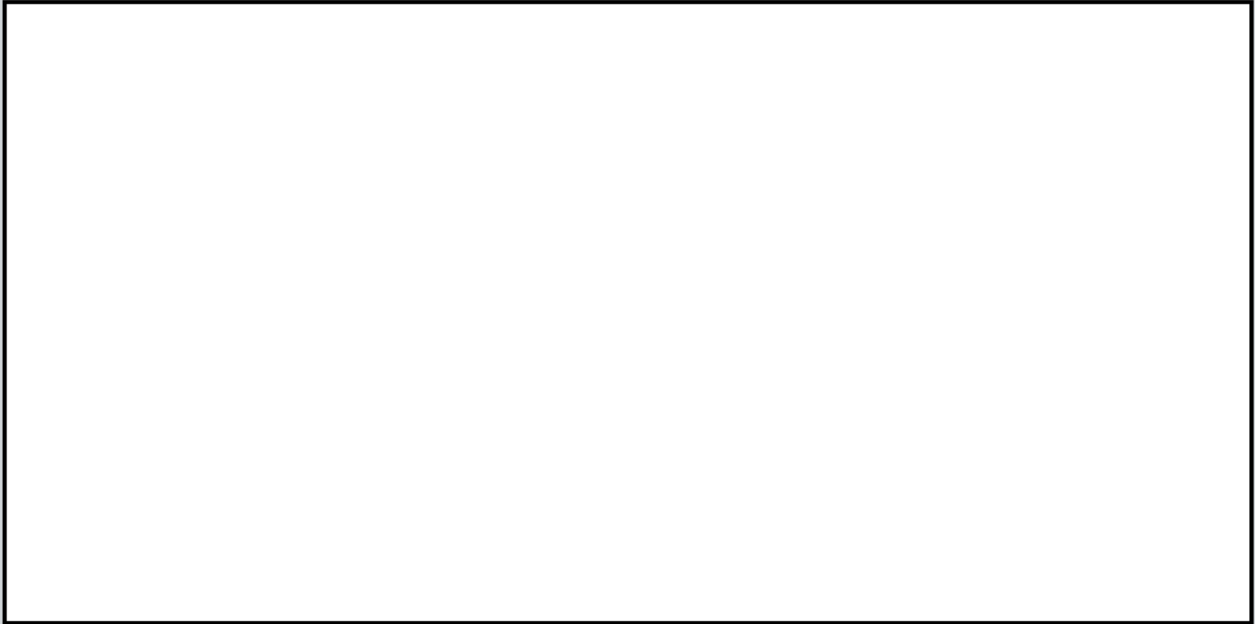
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**Weekly Progress Notes:**(Record observations and data to track parent engagement and skill implementation.)

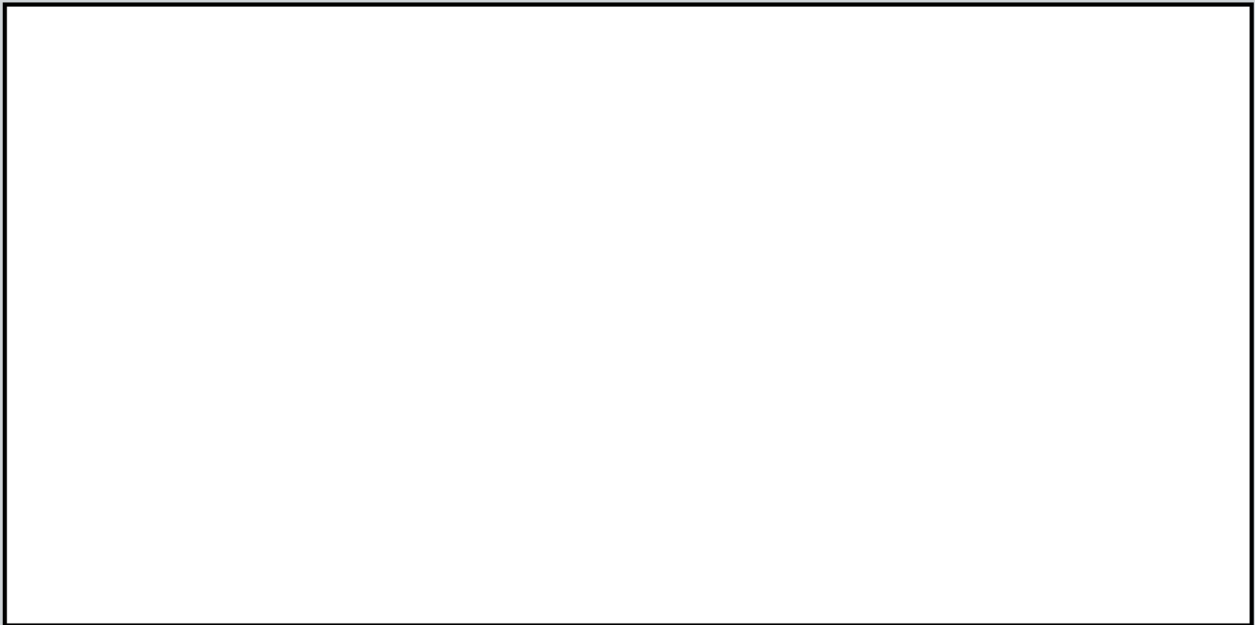
Week	Parent Goal	Progress	Notes
Week 1			
Week 2			
Week 3			

# Reflection Log

What went well this week?

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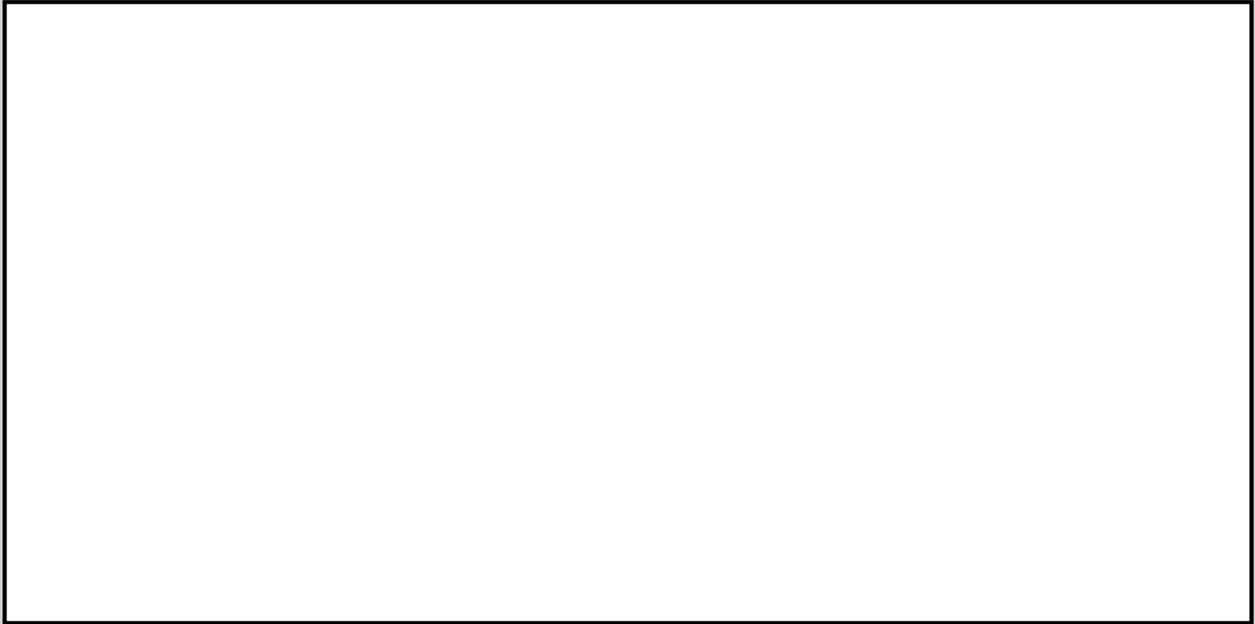
What challenges did you face?

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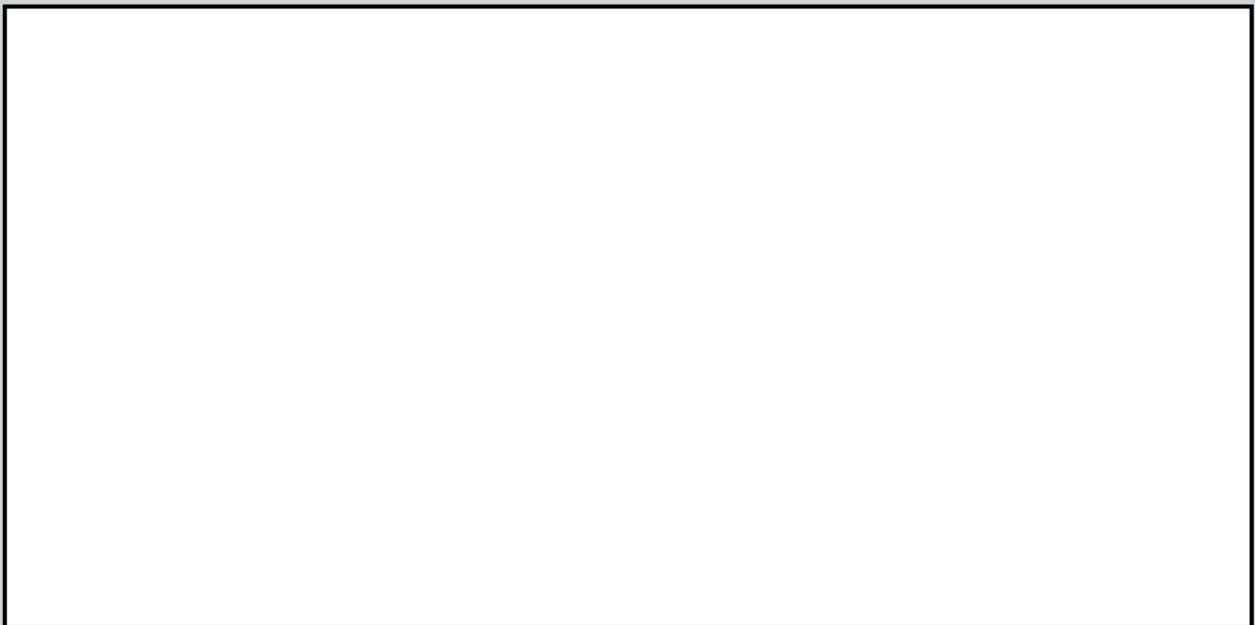


# Reflection Log

What adjustments need to be made?

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Additional Notes

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