



**My tools in My Communication Toolbox help me tell my story
Here are some tools I might use as I am learning to communicate with you**

- MY VOICE** Opening my mouth and learning to turn my voice on, making silly sounds, vocalizing back and forth with you, varying my tone of voice to communicate my feelings and my needs...
- MY SOUNDS** Learning to move my mouth to say vowels and adding consonants to make syllables, learning to sound pair, when I imitate your model with any vocalizations I can make...
- MY WORDS** Learning to say my sounds and syllables in words as I start to imitate you and to talk on my own, combining words into phrases and forming sentences to tell stories...
- MY FACIAL EXPRESSIONS** Using my eyes to look at you and to look at what I want or what I am thinking about, varying my facial expressions to tell you how I feel...
- MY BODY LANGUAGE** Turning my body towards you or away from you, varying my posture and body movements to show you how I feel, taking your hand and guiding you to what I want...
- MY GESTURES** Reaching towards/pointing to get things, putting my hand out to show I want a turn, learning to trade with you when your hand is out, nodding "yes"/shaking "no", waving...
- MY SIGN LANGUAGE** Signing my own words and imitating your signs, gentle prompting at my elbows might help remind me to move, signing on my own as soon as I can, using my own made up signs...
- MY PICTURES** Giving a picture to you, showing you I want something/have something to say, building phrases with my pictures, using pictures to make choices in my schedule and to follow the schedule you have for me, using pictures to help me understand...
- MY COMMUNICATION BOARD/BOOK** Watching you point to my picture board/book as you talk, learning that I can point too, pointing to common words like "help", "eat", "more", and "all done", pointing to specific names like people or things, building phrases, learning to vocalize while pointing, as I am able...
- MY COMMUNICATION BUTTON/DEVICE** Touching a button and hearing it talk for me, helping me tell what I can't verbalize myself, like calling for a person, playing peek-a-boo, or telling you I want to "go", using my device to say everyday vocabulary words, learning to build sentences to share how I am feeling, what I am thinking, and to tell my story, learning to vocalize my words if I am able...