

NEW TOOLS IN COMMUNICATION

NARRATIVE PROCEEDINGS WITH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES USING EXPRESSIVE ARTS TO DESCRIBE THEIR SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCES

Many Ways Children Express Needs, Wants, and Desires Through Stories

Simply talking about a problem or expressing life experiences in heartfelt ways can be an opportunity to open up and engage actively in verbal communication. Many children prefer to express themselves in many ways than just sitting and talking. Children with language learning problems may require other focused modalities to express themselves. Many children capable of verbal expression would often like to communicate in different ways and greatly appreciate being offered various forms of expression. Painting, puppets, or other nonverbal means can be used to express themselves. If they are not provided with alternative means of expression, the unique voices of certain disabled persons may be obscured and may be excluded from any conversation about their unique, daily ways of being.



Share, Not Talk, Significant Experiences

Play and expressive art modalities help children communicate who are not very verbal. Focusing non-verbal modalities of communication could include children who are reluctant to speak, are too shy, are from another nationality and speak English as a second language, have language-based disabilities, or who are just too young to speak. Some kids may be primarily visual or kinesthetic processors for whom art or dance will be the preferred means of expression. There are those who have experienced emotional neglect and abuse who have impaired verbal expression at certain times, for example, some kids, due to trauma made during psychological trauma, may be unable to talk freely. Also, there are culturally-different families with a diverse style or cultural expression where parents have predetermined ways about the way their children should act or talk.