**14 Communication “Reminders”**

**“Not Being Able to Speak Is NOT the Same as Not Having Anything to Say”**

1. **Behavior *IS* communication!**
2. Communication is both a skill and a sensorimotor experience.
3. Early expression of “memories” will likely incorporate the movement and tactile aspects of the learner’s experience.
4. Everyone communicates! Language is just *one* means.
5. For a learner who experiences multiple, complex disabilities, the way in which she *receives* information might be different from the way she *expresses* information.
6. Labels commonly used may be very confusing.
7. Do *with,* NOT *for….*
8. Proper positioning and supports are essential to communication facilitation.
9. Maximize the learner’s sensory access.
10. Teach multiple modes of communication!

(A GoTalk or Samsung Galaxy won’t “work” in the pool or bathtub!)

1. Observe and focus.
2. WAIT! (“Patience is a virtue.”)
3. Body language is a two-way street.
4. Model the *use* of a learner’s communication modes.
5. Communication is the *foundation* for literacy skills.
6. Today *affects* tomorrow, but doesn’t *predict* it!
7. It’s *NEVER* too late to begin…
8. **NOTHING IS FREE!**

(Adapted from: Rafalowski Welch, T. (2012, June). NC Family Deaf-Blind Conference.)