



## **SELECTIVE MUTISM-STAGES OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION COMFORT SCALE ©**

**NON-COMMUNICATIVE** -neither non-verbal nor verbal. **NO** social engagement.

### **STAGE 0 - NO Responding, NO initiating**

- Child stands motionless (stiff body language), expressionless, averts eye gaze, appears 'frozen,' **MUTE** OR
- Seemingly IGNORES person while interacting or speaking to other(s). **MUTE towards others**

For communication to occur, **Social Engagement** must occur

**COMMUNICATIVE** (Nonverbal and/or Verbal\*)

\*TO ADVANCE FROM ONE STAGE OF COMMUNICATION TO THE NEXT, INCREASING SOCIAL COMFORT NEEDS TO OCCUR.

### **STAGE 1 - Nonverbal Communication: (NV)**

- 1A** Responding -pointing, nodding, writing, sign language, gesturing, use of 'objects' (e.g. whistles, bells, Non-voice augmentative device (e.g. communication boards/cards, symbols, photos)
- 1B** Initiating -getting someone's attention via pointing, gesturing, writing, use of 'objects' to get attention (e.g. whistles, bells, Non-voice augmentative device (e.g. communication boards/cards, symbols, photos)

### **STAGE 2 - Transition into Verbal Communication (TV)**

- 2A** Responding -Via any sounds, (e.g. grunts, animal sounds, letter sounds, moans, phonetics etc.): Verbal Intermediary® or Whisper Buddy; Augmentative Device with sound, (e.g. simple message switch, multiple voice message device, tape recorder, video, etc.)
- 2B** Initiating -Getting someone's attention via any sounds, (e.g. grunts, animal sounds, letter sounds, moans, phonetics, etc.): Verbal Intermediary® or Whisper Buddy; Augmentative Device with sound, (e.g. , simple message switch, multiple voice message device ,tape recorder, video, etc)

### **STAGE 3 - Verbal Communication (V)**

- 3A** Responding – Approximate speech/direct speech (e.g. altered or made-up language, baby talk, reading/rehearsing script, soft whispering, speaking)
- 3B** Initiating - Approximate speech/direct speech (e.g. altered or made-up language, baby talk, reading/rehearsing script, soft whispering, speaking)

“Copyright © Dr. Elisa Shipon-Blum and Selective Mutism Anxiety Research and Treatment Center, Inc. (SMart Center) – [www.selectivemutismcenter.org](http://www.selectivemutismcenter.org). 215-887-5748 [smartcenter@selectivemutismcenter.org](mailto:smartcenter@selectivemutismcenter.org) All rights reserved.”

“This material is part of Dr. Elisa Shipon-Blum’s Social Communication Anxiety Treatment® or (S-CAT)® and is used under license.”  
The Social Communication Bridge® is the visual representation of the SM-Stages of Social Communication ©