



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, 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., 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 (VC)

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)