**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** (Nonverb al 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)