



## Selective Mutism Stages of Social Communication Comfort Scale®

<b>Non-Communicative</b> Neither non-verbal or verbal. <b>No social engagement.</b>	
<b>Stage 0: No responding, no initiating</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child stands motionless (stiff body language), expressionless, averts eye gaze, appears “frozen,” MUTE</li> <li>• Seemingly IGNORES person while interacting or speaking to other(s). MUTE towards others</li> </ul>	
<i>For communication to occur, <b>Social Engagement</b> must occur.</i>	
<b>Communicative</b> Non-verbal and/or Verbal.	
<i>To advance from one stage of communication to the next, <b>increasing social comfort</b> needs to occur.</i>	
<b>Stage 1: Nonverbal Communication (NV)</b>	
<b>1A:</b> Responding: pointing, nodding, writing, sign language, gesturing, use of "objects" (e.g. whistles, bells, non-voice augmented device such as communication boards/cards, symbols, photos)	
<b>1B:</b> Initiating: getting someone’s attention via pointing, gesturing, writing, use of "objects" to get attention (e.g. whistles, bells, non-voice augmented device such as communication boards/cards, symbols, photos)	
<b>Stage 2: Transition into Verbal Communication (TV)</b>	
<b>2A:</b> Responding: via any <u>sounds</u> (e.g. grunts, animal sounds, letter sounds, moans, phonetics, etc.) <u>Verbal Intermediary®</u> , <u>Whisper Buddy</u> , <u>Augmentative Device with sound</u> (e.g. simple message switch, multiple voice message device, tape recorder, video, etc.)	
<b>2B:</b> Initiating: getting someone's attention via any <u>sounds</u> (e.g. grunts, animal sounds, letter sounds, moans, phonetics, etc.) <u>Verbal Intermediary®</u> , <u>Whisper Buddy</u> , <u>Augmentative Device with sound</u> (e.g. simple message switch, multiple voice message device, tape recorder, video, etc.)	
<b>Stage 3: Verbal Communication (V)</b>	
<b>3A:</b> Responding: Approximate speech/direct speech (e.g. altered or made-up language, baby talk, reading/rehearsing script, soft whispering, speaking)	
<b>3B:</b> Initiating: Approximate speech/direct speech (e.g. altered or made-up language, baby talk, reading/rehearsing script, soft whispering, speaking)	