## Selective Mutism Stages of Social Communication Comfort Scale®

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Communicative</th>
<th>Communicative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neither non-verbal or verbal. <strong>No social engagement.</strong></td>
<td>Non-verbal and/or Verbal.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Stage 0: No responding, no initiating
- Child stands motionless (stiff body language), expressionless, averts eye gaze, appears “frozen,” MUTE
- Seemingly IGNORES person while interacting or speaking to other(s). MUTE towards others

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

### Stage 1: Nonverbal Communication (NV)

1A: 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)

1B: 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)

### Stage 2: Transition into Verbal Communication (TV)

2A: Responding: via any sounds (e.g. grunts, animal sounds, letter sounds, moans, phonetics, etc.) **Verbal Intermediary®, 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®, 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)