COMMUNICATION

This is top priority-communication empowers towards behavior and all aspects of learning. Every person has a voice worth hearing! (<https://angelmansyndromenews.com/2018/11/02/angelman-syndrome-teaching-others-how-communicate/>)

Consider learning modes and include those:

-A visual learner can benefit from labels, lists, schedules, reward charts, pictures, post it notes, and allowing them to write or draw their thoughts and feelings as well…. to enhance communication.

-An auditory learner can benefit from communication with rhyme, music, varying tone of voice or volume, bells or buzzers for communicating time, and they need a lot of time listening to them.

-A kinesthetic learner can benefit from demonstrating what you mean, including objects (i.e. discussing animal vocabulary while playing with zoo toys), communicating IN action, not about it (i.e. discussing what dress to buy while at the store rather than looking at dresses on a website or teaching up/down while walking on stairs)

JUST DO IT– Do not wait for the perfect solution, use any resource on hand at the time to build in communication. I have seen this work! *I have seen non-verbal students describe what hurts by pointing to yes/no penciled onto a sheet of paper. I have seen kids calm down when options were given using quick drawn pictures to offer choices. One can even present the actual two items the child can choose from if that is all they have. At least the child is getting opportunities to build their communication pathways and getting the empowerment of a voice. It can only be growth from there!*

Work with a team approach including specialists to continue to improve and modify communication tools and strategies over time.

All types of Assistive Technology, both high and low-tech communication tools. Work with your school, Easter Seals, etc. to find a solution. There are organizations willing to find funding for iPads, software, switches, and picture symbols need can be established. (i.e. PECS, PODS, Touchchat, Proloquo…)

Multi Modal approach: While one primary mode will be the focus, incorporating other modes (Verbal, pictures, sign language, gestures, modeling, print, tactile, experiential etc.) can enrich the experience.

Individualized boards using software such as Symbolstix or Boardmaker, (<https://goboardmaker.com/pages/boardmaker-online>)

Building language through relationship and play: Learning Language and Loving It, turn taking, making videos, pretending, games, etc.