

Including Members Who Type to Communicate

We need to make sure that everybody is heard. Give people enough time to think about a topic without making them feel like they are taking too long. We are spreading the notion that people need to talk less and listen more.

SUPPORTED TYPING: SOME PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES EXPRESS THEMSELVES BY POINTING TO PICTURES OR LETTERS AND BY TYPING ON A DEVICE. THEY MAY GET ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FROM A COMMUNICATION PARTNER.

Set up:

- Ask us what we need (extension cord, power strip, speakers or microphones).



- Make sure the tables and chairs are the right height
- People should see and hear what we have to say. Using a projector allows others to see each word as I type it. This is better than waiting to hear the finished thought.

Before:

- Learn about all the ways that I communicate.
- Let us know what is on the agenda. If we know ahead of time we can bring a picture or object to help describe what we want to communicate. And we can write what we want to say ahead of time.



Please send us your ideas! Contact Green Mountain Self-Advocates at info@gmsavt.org

Keep in mind:

- People do not understand it is hard to be spontaneous and it is work to put verbal words on paper.



- Be patient and wait for me to finish what I want to say even if it takes a long time. When the conversation moves on while I am still typing it can be frustrating.

During the meeting:

- Don't just ask me yes or no questions. Ask me "what, where, when, why and how" questions.
- It's good to cue the group to slow down and wait for someone to finish a thought or ask a question.
- Give me chances to communicate throughout the meeting and with lots of different people.



In general:



- Believe I am a smart person & have things to say.
- Know that I also communicate things with my body. These can be important things.
- Let me answer for myself and make my own decisions.
- Tell people to talk to me directly and not to my companion if they want to ask me a question.
- Don't think that you always know what I am going to say. Don't get ahead of me!

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