

Thinking Outside of the Box: Multi-Modal Communication Strategies

Examples of Multi-Modal Communication:

- Speech
- Gestures
- Sign language
- Writing
- Typing
- Vocalizations
- Facial expression

Patient Tips:

- Think about what you are trying to say
- Get the attention of your listener
- Face the person you are talking to
- Identify your topic
- Use short sentences or phrases
- If not understood, think of a different (multi-modal) way to say it

Caregiver Tips:

- Reduce/eliminate background noise
- Ask yes and no questions
- Ask clarifying questions (i.e. Are you talking about Jack?)
- Provide choices rather than asking open-ended questions
- Provide extra time for a response
- Encourage use of alternative/multi-modal strategies
- Verify you understood what was said
- Ensure your hearing is as good as possible