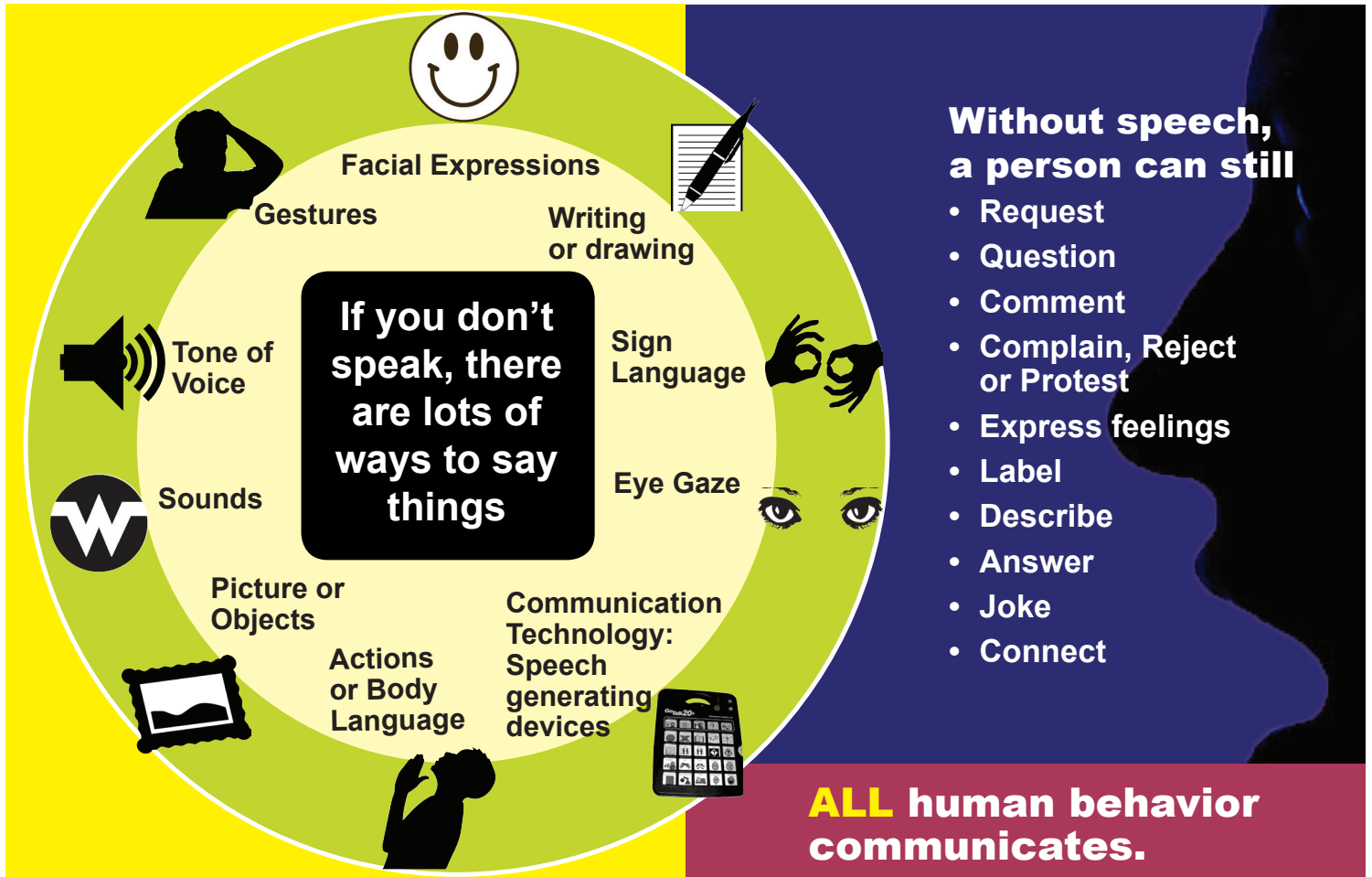


Supporting the RIGHT to Communication

EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY!



How to talk with someone who doesn't talk

- **CONNECT** — Make sure the person knows you want to “hear” them
- **TAKE TIME AND RELAX** — Take your time and give the person plenty of time.
- **ACCEPT** — Accept any form or means of communication.
- **VALUE** — Try to understand the person and include others in the conversation if needed.
- **CLARIFY** — Repeat the message and admit if you didn't understand. Work together to repair any communication breakdowns.
- **HONOR** — Speak directly to the person and not about the person as if they are invisible.
- **HELP** — Make sure that any communication system or device is always available in ALL settings.

Technology is making communication easier for some people and **POSSIBLE** for other people.

When we can't talk, we all use AAC – **ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION**

- The use of AAC will not hurt and may help speech development.
- A person usually has more than one way to communicate and may use them at the same time.
- We all have an active role to engage with and support AAC.
- New AAC innovations are always being developed.
- Some AAC devices actually produce voice and these are called “speech-generating devices.”

2 OUT OF EVERY 3 PEOPLE
in Pennsylvania
who cannot speak
DO NOT have an
effective way
to communicate.



FUNDING ASSISTANCE

- School district (if school aged)
- Medical Assistance
- Medicare
- Private Insurance
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Home and Community Based Waivers
- Grants
- Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation

**CONTACT YOUR
SUPPORTS COORDINATOR!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Institute on Disabilities at
Temple University
PA's Initiative on Assistive
Technology (PIAT)
PA's AT Lending Library
800-204-7428 (voice)
800-268-0579 (TTY)
disabilities.temple.edu

Office of Developmental
Programs (ODP)
toll free
customer service line:
888-565-9435 (voice)
866-388-1114 (TTY)
dhs.pa.gov
RA-customerservice@pa.gov

PA Training and
Technical Assistance
Network (PaTTAN)
(for school aged
individuals only)
Central 800-360-7282
East 800-441-3215
West 800-446-5607
pattan.net