

# Working with a Communication Assistant

## Lesson 2 Communication Assistants



### About This Lesson

2

- ❖ Communication Assistants
- ❖ Communication assistance in different situations

## Resources

3

- ❖ Slides
- ❖ Audio scripts

## Types of Communication Assistants

4

A Communication Assistant can be anyone who you trust to assist you communicating. They can be:

- ❖ People who know you very well
- ❖ Independent Communication Assistants
- ❖ Speech-Language Pathologists

## People Who Know You Very Well

5

People who know you well are often the good people to provide communication assistance. They can be:

- ❖ Family member
- ❖ Friend
- ❖ Personal Attendant
- ❖ Personal Support Workers
- ❖ Direct service provider



## Independent Communication Assistants

6

Independent Communication Assistants are people who may not know you as well as family or support staff.

They may be people who have some experience supporting people with disabilities and who have some training in providing communication assistance.



## Independent Communication Assistants (Cont'd)

7

They might be:

- ❖ Attendant or personal support worker who supports a person you know who has a communication disability
- ❖ People who have taken CDAC's communication assistance training
- ❖ People who have connections with your communication clinic or a disability organization in your community



## Using a Speech Language Pathologist

8

**A Speech Language Pathologist** may be required to assist with communication in critical communication situations.

For example:

- ❖ If you need help understanding and communicating decisions about your healthcare.
- ❖ If a healthcare provider questions your ability to communicate consent to treatment in a healthcare setting



## Using a Speech Language Pathologist (Cont'd)

9

- ❖ If a healthcare provider questions the reliability of the person who is assisting you with communication
- ❖ If you want to report abuse and crimes to a police officer
- ❖ If you need to give evidence or testimony in court or at a tribunal
- ❖ If you want to discuss private matters with a lawyer

## Things to Think About and Discuss

10

Who do you have to assist with communication in different situations – in your familiar circle of assistants; independent assistants and speech language pathology assistant circles?

## Things to Think About and Discuss (Cont'd)

11

Who would you want to assist you:

- ❖ At a dentist appointment
- ❖ At a community meeting about making a local park accessible
- ❖ In a hospital
- ❖ At a meeting a lawyer about your power of attorney
- ❖ Making a complaint about a service provider

Are you pleased with how the assistance they give you?

Do you want to increase the number of assistants you have?



## Feedback

12

Please complete the feedback form for this lesson  
before moving to the next lesson.

