

Module: **Communication and Emergent Literacy:
Early Intervention Issues**

**Session 1: Overview of Communication and
Literacy**

Activity A: Identifying Communicative Attempts

Instructor Guidelines

The purpose of this assignment is for participants to describe the communicative interactions between children with visual impairments and their parents, other adults, and other children.

Time needed. 40 minutes

Materials. Video clip CL 1-06, “Communication in Young Children With VI”

Directions

1. Have participants watch video clip CL 1-06.
2. Participants should use the questions listed below to describe the communication shown in the video clip. Have participants turn in their written answers.
 - a. How did the children with visual impairments communicate with adults or other children? Did the children with visual impairments use linguistic communication, nonlinguistic communication, or a combination of both?
 - b. How did adults and other children communicate with the children with visual impairments? Did they use linguistic communication, nonlinguistic communication, or a combination of both?
 - c. In order for communication to be successful, one partner must express a message and the other partner must receive it. Which communicative attempts were not received by a partner and why?
 - d. Did the children’s visual impairments affect communication? If so, how?
 - e. Did the children with visual impairments use compensatory communication strategies? If so, please describe.
 - f. Did the adults make adjustments to facilitate communication? If so, describe the adjustments.
3. Have participants discuss their responses in small groups, as a class, or in an online discussion.
4. After the discussion, show the video clip a second time to see if participants recognize other aspects of communication not identified earlier. Ask the question: What did you observe this time that you did not notice during your initial viewing?

Background Information

Patti is 23 months old with cortical visual impairment, hearing impairment, and motor impairments. She is seen during a home visit with her TVI and mother.

Alex is 27 months old with retinoblastoma. He is seen attending a playgroup with other children with visual impairments accompanied by his mother.

Michaela is 29 months old, has Leber's congenital amaurosis, and appear to have light perception. She is seen at a playgroup with other children with visual impairments with her mother and her TVI.