Communication Modes Used by Individuals with CHARGE Syndrome

Manual Sign

* Sign Language: The “official” language used by Deaf culture in your country
* Signing Exact English: Using English word order, instead of the “language” of sign
* Cued Speech: Using gestures while speaking to enhance understanding of lip-reading
* Fingerspelling: Spelling out words letter by letter using a signing alphabet
* Tadoma: a method of touching a person’s face and throat to feel what they are saying
* Home sign: Signs used/invented by an individual that are specific to them

Speech

* Using verbal forms of language, both formal and informal

Visual Symbols

* Using objects, pictures, or textures to communicate

Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCA)

* Using electronic equipment to communicate a message

Gestures and Vocalizations

* Pointing, showing, push-pull, vocal noises to communicate, without the use of signs

Idiosyncratic Behaviors

* The individual’s own form of communication when other forms are not adequate, available, or accessible. Examples: crying, smiling, pain behavior, or any other way of trying to get a message across.

Total Communication

* The use of any form of communication available to the individual. Often, individuals choose to use more than one form. For example, a person may use some sign language to answer questions, some picture symbols to ask for food, some push-pull to show you what he/she wants, and some idiosyncratic behaviors when in pain, because that is what works for them. There is a growing consensus to allow for this to happen, as any communication helps the individual to be heard, no matter how it’s done.

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