



## Cajon Valley Union School District

### *Augmentative/Alternative Communication Program*

Dear Family,

Enclosed are some communication displays to post on doors (at your child's height) in your home. These displays have several purposes:

- For family members to immerse your child in the use of pictures and written words to communicate ("modeling" or "Aided Language Immersion"), in addition to the use of speech
- To give your more child opportunities to communicate anywhere in the house, and to reduce frustration
- To help your child learn to recognize symbols and written words
- To help your child see and learn how to put simple phrases together, such as "Let's go to the park."

Here's how all family members can help your child use these displays:

- Whenever entering a door with a display on it, the adult should try to find something to show and say. For example, the adult might say "I'm hungry" while pointing to that square on the refrigerator display. Then, she might add "I want an apple," while pointing to "I want" and then "apple."
- When you have something to say that is not on the display, point to "something different/ not here" and say "What I want to say is not here." Then demonstrate another way to get your message across (showing, gesturing, signing, using other communication resources, or using speech).
- You may want to hang the displays from a clip or magnet so that they are easily removable, in case you want to refer to them in a different location.
- Remember: When babies learn speech, they learn by seeing and hearing adults speaking all the time. The process for using alternative communication is the same: your child needs to see thousands of examples from adults before we can expect him to communicate in this way.