

# Educational Psychology Overview Guide

## Total Communication

### What is Total communication?

The total communication approach is about finding and using the right combination of communication methods for each person. This approach helps an individual to form connections, ensure successful interactions and supports information exchanges and conversation.

Total communication is also about creating a positive environment that will help you communicate and interact.

### Methods of Communication

- **Non-verbal** (e.g., body movement, breathing pattern, eye pointing.)
- **Language-based communication** (e.g., speech, lip reading, Tadoma, deafblind manual alphabet, giving and receiving information in large print, braille and block alphabet, and sign systems, including British Sign Language (BSL) and Makaton.)
- **Symbol systems** (e.g., including using objects of reference (real objects and object symbols), Bliss, Widgit, Mayer-Johnson, Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), line drawings, pictures and photographs.)

### Example:

For a student feel ready to communicate they may need a centre lighting in a room, minimal background noise and to be sat in a certain space. If something does not feel right they may use their body language and eye pointing to show someone what is making them uncomfortable. They then might use objects to explain what they want to communicate.

<https://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Resource-5-A-Total-Communication-Approach.pdf>