



Decision Making Skills: 05 Conventional

Expanding Authority

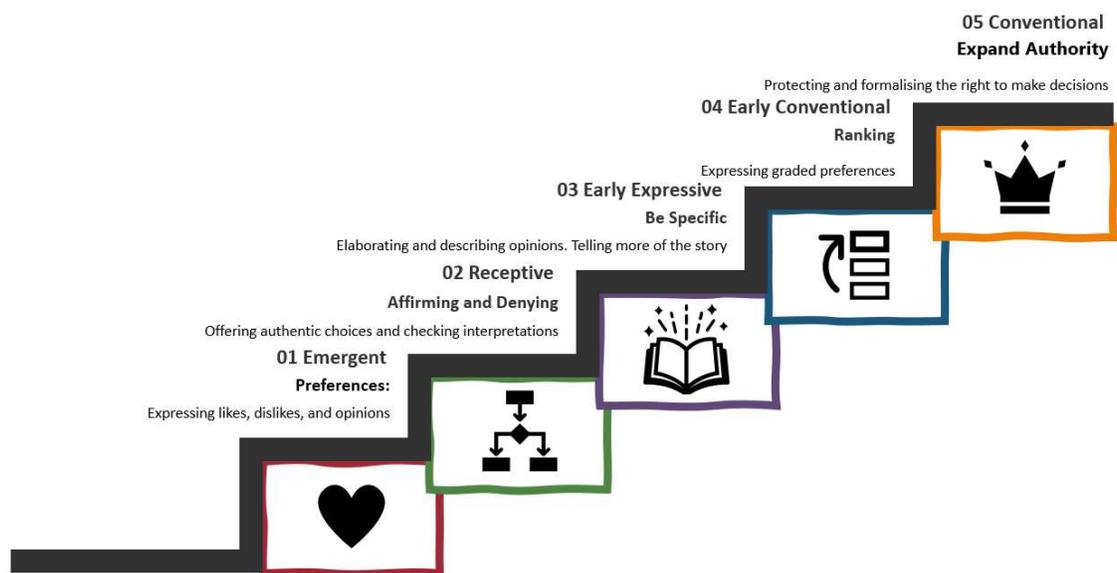


An individual demonstrating skills at this stage may:

- Use language or behaviours that let others know what types of decisions are important to them.
- Able to demonstrate skills of all other levels.
- Expect to be asked their opinion

Goals at this stage:

- Protect the individual's right to make decisions.
- Ensure agreements are in place to know which decisions the individual is making.
- Ensure that what is important for the individual is understood and documented.
- Move towards giving more choice and control to the individual.
- Ensure someone always has access to their communication supports.



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Strategies to support an individual demonstrating skills at this stage

Personal Communication Dictionary

A communication dictionary is a valuable tool for an individual who has complex communication needs.

It contains information about the unique or unconventional ways they communicate, and what others should do in response.

The dictionary acts as a common reference for understanding and interpreting what the individual is doing and how others should respond.

The individual has the chance to ensure their choices and preferences are recognised and respected.

What I do:	What this could mean:	What you should do:
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Decision Making Profile

A tool designed to establish a snapshot of current strategies that support an individual to make decisions and express opinions.

This tool can include information on:

- How preferences are expressed (both positive and negative).
- How yes and no is communicated.
- How priorities are expressed.
- How options need to be presented.
- What helps to make decisions.
- What does not help to make decisions.
- Times that are good and not good for making decisions.

Decision Making Agreement

This is a tool that identifies which situations are important to an individual and sets out a process for making decisions in each situation.

Information within this tool sets out:

- Decisions or situations that are important.
- Who else they want to be involved.
- How the individual wants to be involved.
- What supports are need to be involved.
- Who makes the final decision.

Talking Mats

This is a tool which uses visual communication symbols to support a discussion around a particular topic.

Talking Mats give an individual another way to express their views. There are no right or wrong answers in a Talking Mat session, and each session follows the same structure.

The tool can be used to:

- Support understanding
- Reduce memory demands
- Provide a structure to answer open questions
- Give individuals processing time
- Discuss a topic in a non-confrontational way
- Supplement existing AAC strategies