

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES

Category	Definition	Example
Soliciting/Seeking Information	A request to provide important information	Can you tell me more about? Can you give me an example of?
Clarifying Information	A way to ensure that everyone has the same understanding through restatement or a question	I think I heard you say [], is that correct? Would you repeat what you said? I am not sure I understand.
Sharing/Providing Information	An exchange between parties	From my experience, let me share with you what I see Harry doing at home.
Negotiating through Consensus Building	An effort to find common ground	Can we agree to try [] for a short time and see how Johnny responds?
Soliciting Participation	An invitation for everyone to become actively involved in the discussion	Mary, we haven't heard your thinking on this.
Summarizing	A brief statement of what has been said thus far	Now let's recap: We have agreed our next steps will be []
Checking for Agreement	Questioning the group to see if all parties are in agreement	Are we all in agreement that we should move forward with this decision?
Taking a Break	When the discussion is at an impasse, it is sometimes helpful to take a break and come back fresh	It seems we still have some unresolved issues. Can we agree to stop for today and reconvene?

Co-developed by New Jersey Department of Education Office of Special Education (NJOSE) and SPAN Parent Advocacy Network. Funded by IDEA Part B funds.