Memory Board COMMUNICATION INSTRUCTIONS

This Number/Alphabet board requires the speaking person to systematically scan the card aloud after eye movement indicated either left or right. The patient will then signal when the speaker reaches the target line or symbol. This process continues until spelling of the word and message is complete. Patients will often devise abbreviations for frequent request. Such as- SX=suction, PE=urinate, BM=bowel movement, FD=fed me, CC=call someone, CLD=cold, HT=hot, LU=love you, TX=thank you. Practice will increase your ability to make expressive communication available to the speech-impaired person.

1. Hold the Communication Board so that the rows numbered 5-7 are on the left-hand side and facing the speaking person.
2. Speaking person will look for left or right signal from patient. When indicated will start with that number row.....either right 1-2-3-4 or LEFT 5-6-7 questions/numbers.
3. When the patient indicates the number, speaking person will slow start with letter in that line.
4. The letters for each line are easily memorized if one can remember and tweak the old school rhyme - A-E-I-O-U
1-A
2-E
3-I
4-M
5-Q
6-U
7-Y

Questions – who, what, when, where, why, how

Numbers
5. Continue the process slowly until the word/message is completed.
6. Remember the first word may be the question

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS
7. Be sure of the signal or body movement that is the patient’s Yes/No. Needs to be visible, reliable, known to all communicating persons.
8. Use communication broad in well lit area
9. Go slow until both patient and speaking person can respond with ease.
10. Encourage the use of single words or abbreviations. Complete sentences take longer and usually not needed when the patient and speaking person know each other well.
11. If the patient spells CAR- don’t start guessing Carl, Carol, car pool, credit cards. Ask if you can guess, otherwise the patient will get frustrated. Remember this may be their only control left.
12. Laminate the board in bright colors. White boards are hard to find among paperwork or bed linens.