

Practicum 69: Supporting Communication

Name (please print): _____

Date: _____

This practicum measures how you apply the knowledge and skills you learned from module 69: Supporting Communication to the supports you provide.

Instructions:

- Complete Work Samples A, B, and C.
- **Use as much room as you need to explain each answer fully. You may attach or use additional pages if needed.** The amount of space in this document is not an indication of the length of your answer. However, the quality of the content is more important than the length. **Please type your answers if possible.**

Your work sample should demonstrate your knowledge and skills in this competency area. Try to convey how your communication support makes a positive difference in the person's life. Explain how the strategies you use help the person solve problems or meet a goal/outcome important to him/her.

There should be enough detail in your description to allow the person who reviews your work to evaluate whether or not your support demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and values of the skill standard. The support you describe in your explanation must be best practice approaches based on what you learned in the *Supporting Communication* training module and other training related to this topic and consistent with the NADSP code of ethics.

Your work will be evaluated on the following scale:

1. Practice-BASIC mastery of knowledge and skills
2. Proficient-INTERMEDIATE mastery
3. Advanced-FULL mastery

For North Dakota DD certification, this practicum must be evaluated at "Practice" level or better. If the evaluation of your work sample indicates that more information is needed, the practicum will be returned to you with comments on how you can improve your work sample before you resubmit it. *Note: If you plan to submit this practicum for NADSP credentialing, a "Proficient" level of mastery is required on at least three of four work samples. You will also be required to complete a Reflective Statement for NADSP submissions. NADSP credentialing is optional.*

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Work Sample A: Using Effective Communication Skills

Describe A Person You Support:

1. Describe the person you support. Include their gender, age, **communication method and other communication needs**, mobility, level of support, types of support provided by the agency and others in their life, and other important information about the person.

2. How does adapting your supports to match this person's communication style strengthen your relationship with the person?

3. Describe specific examples of how you adapt your supports to match the person's communication style by answering the following questions (if they apply to the person you support).

How do you recognize and respond to his/her specific communication style?

How do you support alternative communication systems?

How do you structure the environment to promote communication?

How do you adapt messages and terminology to ensure the person will understand?

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Work Sample A: Using Effective Communication Skills (continued)

Describe A DIFFERENT Person You Support:

4. Describe the person you support. Include their gender, age, **communication method and other communication needs**, mobility, level of support, types of support provided by the agency and others in their life, and other important information about the person.
5. How does adapting your supports to match this person's communication style strengthen your relationship with the person?
6. Describe specific examples of how you adapt your supports to match the person's communication style by answering the following questions (if they apply the person you support).

How do you recognize and respond their specific communication style?

How do you support alternative communication systems?

How do you structure the environment to promote communication?

How do you adapt messages and terminology to ensure the person will understand?

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Work Sample B: Communication Activity Summary

Briefly describe a communication exchange between you and a person you support. Describe the environment, materials, activities, etc.

Who was present, and where and what day/time did the activity take place?

What strategies were used to increase the need and opportunity for communication? Check the ones that apply AND describe how that strategy was used in the activity:

_____ Give things in small amounts:

_____ Do something different or unexpected:

_____ Offer choices:

_____ Forget items or actions:

_____ Respond literally:

_____ Purposefully make a mistake:

_____ Place items in sight, but out of reach:

_____ Other: _____:

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Work Sample C: Create Something to Facilitate Communication

Describe an example of when you created something to help facilitate communication. Examples of this might be a visual schedule, communication board, recorded message(s), communication book, or a scrapbook about a favorite topic the person can share with others.

What was the situation that caused you to identify a need to facilitate communication with a person you support?

Describe how you worked with the person and other team members to identify a need and create something that would fill the need.

What did you do or create to facilitate communication?

What was the outcome of your supports?