Pupil Voice – Communication Framework

This is not an exhaustive list of pre-verbal behaviours and responses you may see from a child. Please use your knowledge of the child and their body language, facial expressions and vocalisations to infer their views. Some children may be able to express their likes and dislikes verbally or with AAC.

Communicative level	What you may interpret as dislike	What you may interpret as like
Level 1a Reflexive responses	Upset or angry vocalisations or facial expressions Frowning, startle	Looking Touching Happy vocalisations Facial expressions ie. Smiling Widening eyes Turning head towards item
Level 1b Reflexive responses	Upset or angry vocalisations or facial expressions Pulling away Turning away	Looking Touching Happy vocalisations Facial expressions ie. smiling
Level 1c Reflexive responses	Upset or angry vocalisations or facial expressions Pulling away Turning away pushing away/discarding resources	Looking Touching Happy vocalisations Facial expressions ie. smiling Deliberately turning to locate light or sound Reaching, holding, grasping, picking up, scratching, manipulating items
Level 2	Pulling away Turning away Upset or angry vocalisations Facial expressions ie. Frowning Stiffening of body Looking for source of sensory input Headshaking	Looking Touching Happy vocalisations Facial expressions ie. smiling Deliberately turning to locate light or sound Reaching Moving to music Looking for source of sensory input Nodding
Level 3	Pulling away Turning away Upset or angry vocalisations Facial expressions ie. Frowning Stiffening of body Looking for source of sensory input Headshaking	Looking Touching Happy vocalisations Facial expressions ie. smiling Deliberately turning to locate light or sound Reaching Moving to music

	Signing/using switch “no” or “finished” Answer simple yes/no questions using E-Tran frame and symbols	Looking for source of sensory input Nodding Signing/using switch “yes” or “more” Answer simple yes/no questions using E-Tran frame and symbols
Level 4	Pulling away Turning away Upset or angry vocalisations Facial expressions ie. Frowning Stiffening of body Looking for source of sensory input Headshaking Signing/using switch “no” or “finished”	Looking Touching Happy vocalisations Facial expressions ie. smiling Deliberately turning to locate light or sound Reaching Moving to music Looking for source of sensory input Nodding Signing/using switch “yes” or “more” Requesting item or action through symbols or words
Level 5	Pulling away Turning away Upset or angry vocalisations Facial expressions ie. Frowning Stiffening of body Looking for source of sensory input Headshaking Signing/using switch “no” or “finished” Can identify dislikes verbally or through AAC	Looking Touching Happy vocalisations Facial expressions ie. smiling Deliberately turning to locate light or sound Reaching Moving to music Looking for source of sensory input Nodding Signing/using switch “yes” or “more” Requesting item or action through symbols or words Can identify likes verbally or through AAC