Observing Communication Activity

You probably spend much of your time observing adults or observing children that adults have concerns about. It can be a good exercise to spend some time watching children and staff members engaging and communicating with each other. In this activity, you will have the chance to watch a video of a school-age boy with communication challenges. As you watch, use your knowledge of child development to think about what you would talk with the teacher about. Answer the questions below.

1. What evidence of communication did you see? What are the boy’s communication strengths? How did the boy express interest or disinterest to staff members?

2. a. What strategies did staff members use to communicate with the boy? Were the strategies successful? Why or why not?

   b. What might you say to the staff member about their communication strategies?

3. How did the environment, materials, and/or opportunities for peer interactions promote or limit communication for the boy? What might you discuss with staff members about the space, materials, experiences, etc?