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## WALL CHART SYSTEM

The Wall Chart System allows quick communication of commonly repeated messages when generating new messages is time consuming, fatiguing, or otherwise difficult.

1)   Buy poster board or large sheets of paper to construct a wall chart. You may have more than one chart, if desired. The paper should be large enough so that everyone can see it when it is mounted on the wall.  Assign numbers to each message. (If  there is more than one chart, assign a letter to each chart.)  Example: Message 17a is "I LOVE YOU."

2)   The user indicates through eye gaze or other means that one of the messages on the wall chart is desired.

3)   The user indicates which chart then which message is desired in one of various ways depending on motor and other abilities:
   1.   Point to an alphabet board, e.g., pointing to <u>a</u> <u>3</u> would mean the target was the third message on chart <u>a</u>.
   2.   Use finger taps, blinks or beeps from an alerter, e.g., 1 tap (pause) 3 taps would mean the target was the third message on the first chart.
   3.   Use dependent scanning, i.e., a conversational partner offers choices aloud or by pointing and keeps going until user answers <u>yes</u>.  For example, partner says "Is it on chart a?  b?  c? d? (<u>yes</u>)   OK you indicated it is on chart d.  Now is it message 1?   2?   3?   4? (<u>yes</u>) OK you indicated it is the fourth message."  The user indicates <u>yes</u> with head nods, finger taps, making eye contact, blinking, pointing to an alphabet board, or anything that works!
   4.   Use a headlamp, a flashlight placed onto a head band, or an optical pointer (The light must have a strong beam which can focus clearly on desired message).

4)   The selection of messages for the wall charts must be done by the user as well as the caregivers, friends and other companions.  Vocabulary must be updated frequently to ensure current topics are included and that unused phrases are removed to reduce clutter. This is the hardest part. It requires everyone to put the user's mental dictionary in front of him/her and anticipate what the conversation might be.