



Communication Boards

Making our communities accessible for
non-speakers



Thank you for your interest in installing a Communication Board locally

- Communication does not always mean Verbal Communication. We communicate in a variety of ways and we want to support people to do this.
- This User Guide will tell you everything you need to know to make your idea of having a local communication board a reality.
- If you have any questions please contact us at: communicationboard@neurodiversity.org
- Once you have your communication board installed please send us a photo, and the location (as well as any local press coverage).





What are Communication Boards?

Communication boards are essential tools designed to assist non-speaking individuals in expressing their needs, thoughts, and emotions.



By pointing to or touching these symbols, users can convey messages without speech.



They create a bridge for those who cannot use verbal language, allowing them to communicate using visual aids instead.



They can significantly enhance the quality of life for non-speaking people by supporting their personal expression and increasing their independence and participation in community life.



Making communication accessible for non-speaking individuals.

In educational settings, healthcare facilities, and public spaces, communication boards can be pivotal in creating inclusive environments that respect and uphold the communication rights of all individuals, regardless of their verbal abilities.



Making them accessible in local communities involves thoughtful design and strategic placement to meet diverse needs effectively.



They should incorporate visual symbols and clear, straightforward layouts that cater to the cognitive and sensory preferences of autistic users.



Placement of these boards in accessible public spaces such as parks, libraries, and community centres is crucial.



Practical Information for Installation



Important Considerations for Communication Boards

Although the boards improve accessibility, it is important to make sure that we consider the following to make them accessible to as many people as possible:

Physical Access

Install the boards at an appropriate height and locations that are easily accessible to individuals who may use mobility aids such as wheelchairs.

Community Training

Training for community members and staff in these public venues can also enhance the effectiveness of the communication boards.

Inclusive Environment

Placement of these boards in accessible public spaces such as parks, libraries, and community centres is crucial.



How do I get a board printed?

1. Find a Printing Company:

We recommend using a printer who has experience in producing communication aids or assistive technology resources and is knowledgeable about the specific requirements for durability and usability. To reduce costs, consider a local printer.

Select durable and suitable materials for frequent use. You could use laminated plastic, or even metal depending on where the boards will be placed (indoors or outdoors).

2. Estimate Costs and Quantities:

Determine how many boards are needed and where they will be placed. This will help to obtain a bulk order discount and ensure that there are enough boards across locations.

3. Seek Funding:

Consider applying for funding to cover the costs associated with designing and printing the boards. A list of organisations can be found on page 10.

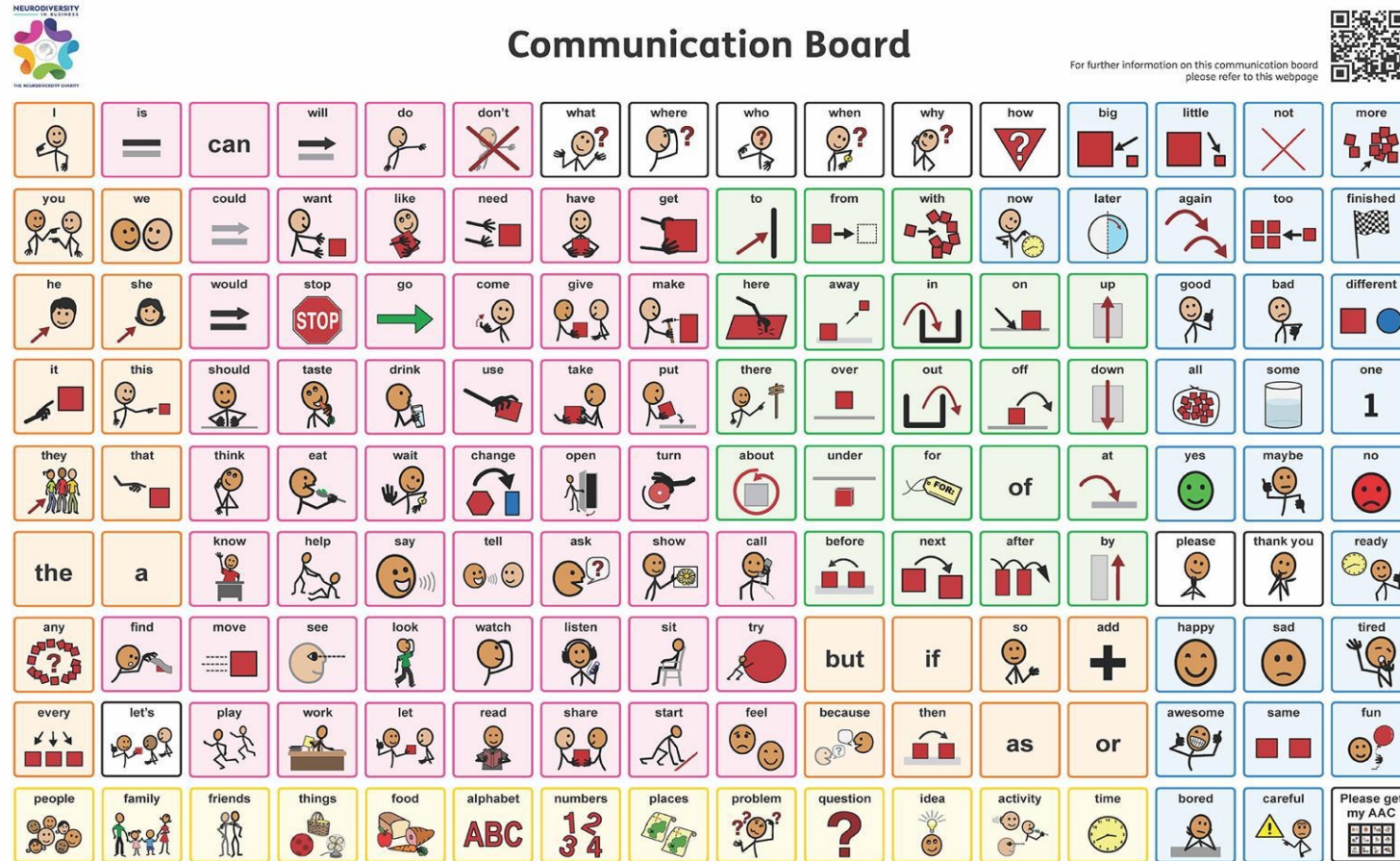
4. Order your Boards:

Place the order with the chosen company and specify the sizes, materials, and any other relevant details. Confirm the expected delivery schedule to coordinate installation in the community.

5. Let us know:

Email us (communicationboard@neurodiversity.org) with a photo and the location so we can share the good news!

Communication Board - Example Image



NB: Link to image file can be found on our website at:
<https://neurodiversityinbusiness.org/communicationboard/>



How much does a Communication Board cost to print?

You can either print the boards yourself via a local supplier or request this from our existing supplier BigPrinting (www.bigprinting.co.uk) based in Huntingdon, UK (01480 492111)

- This table details the per board printing cost from our existing supplier, which you can use as a guide.
- You are free to source your own supplier if you prefer.
- **Installation costs are additional** and to be arranged locally, either through your local council or independently.

Quantity Of Boards	Board Printing Cost Unit Price (£)
1	120
10	72.5
11-50	65
51-100	60
101-500	58.1
501-1000	56.1



How can I get Funding?

You can apply for funding or create a fundraising campaign or Partnership. It is important to thoroughly review each organisation's guidelines and application procedure before applying.

Local Government Funding: Local councils may offer grants for community projects including communication aids.

Charitable Organisations and Trusts: Baily Thomas Charitable Fund, the Elifar Foundation and others provide grants for communication aids for people with disabilities.

Healthcare Routes: Sometimes individual funding can be extended to community settings, (e.g. care homes).

Foundation Grants: National Lottery Community Fund and others support projects that help communities to thrive.

Partnering with Educational Institutions: Universities and colleges sometimes partner with community projects for research purposes or as part of their corporate social responsibility programs.

Crowdfunding and Community Fundraising: Platforms like JustGiving and GoFundMe allow communities to raise money for specific causes, including disability aids.

Corporate Sponsorship: Local businesses and corporations may be interested in sponsoring community projects, especially those that improve inclusivity and accessibility.



Board Installation Checklist

Communication boards are essential tools designed to assist non-speaking individuals in expressing their needs, thoughts, and emotions.

Board Location

- ☐ Do you have permission to install the board at the chosen location(s)?
- ☐ Where are people going to be able to access it and use it easily?
- ☐ Is the site accessible for wheelchairs or other access needs?
- ☐ What height will it need to be to make sure everyone can easily point to it?

Board Installation

- ☐ Who has been chosen to install the board?
- ☐ Are they suitably qualified and do they have the correct equipment?
- ☐ **If Outside:** Does the board have a firm foundation in the ground?
- ☐ Is the board firmly attached to wooden posts?
- ☐ **If Inside:** Is the board securely mounted to the wall?
- ☐ Is the chosen height going to be accessible for everybody to point at?



"Installing a communication board won't only make our community spaces more accessible for non-speakers but importantly, they will raise awareness of autism and get the people who use the park talking about those children who communicate in other ways than the 'standard' spoken communication. It's so important for society to accept that Autistic people are 'different' but not 'less.'"

Dan Harris, Founder and Chairperson,
Neurodiversity in Business





Thank you!

We appreciate your time, and contribution to this ambitious project.

Please get in touch if you have questions:
communicationboard@neurodiversity.org

