**Abstract Symbols**

**Level VI**

* In Level VI, behaviors are intentional, purposefully directed toward communication partner with an intended meaning, and the child communicates symbolically – using an object, picture, word, or speech generating device to express a message.
* Hierarchy of Visual Symbols from Concrete to Abstract
* Object used as part of the activity it represents
* Object identical to the one used as part of an activity
* Object similar but not identical to the object used as part of an activity
* Part of an object
* Full-sized color drawing of the object
* Full-sized black and white drawing of the object or a reduced-size color
* drawing of an object
* Reduced-size black and white drawing of an object
* Abstract or multiple meaning symbols
* Printed word
* Symbols are “Abstract” because they are NOT physically similar to what they represent.
* Abstract Symbols are typically developed at 12 – 24 months (in conjunction with gestures and words)
* Abstract symbols include: speech, manual signs, line drawn symbols, multiple meaning pictures, braille or printed words are used to communicate.
*  In Level VI, children use one symbol at a time.
	+ Spoken word (“no, “finished”)
	+ manual sign (“no”, “stop”)
	+ written word (“no”, “finished”)
	+ brailled word (“no, “stop”)
	+ abstract 3-D symbol (“no”, “stop”)
	+ abstract 2-D symbol (“no”, “stop”)