**Steps for Building a Pre-Symbolic Signal Dictionary for an Individual**

**with Complex Communication Needs**

1. Observe the individual in a variety of activities/routines and with multiple partners.

2. Generate a list of potential signals by identifying any vocalizations or body movements that the individual can control. (Ex: cry, reach, look, giggle, stretch, kick, smile)

3. Select a few of these as signals to shape communicative intent.

4. Attach meaning to the selected signals.

5. Determine corresponding partner behavior. (Do, Say, and Shape)

6. Respond consistently and immediately to selected signals by all partners.

7. Team may use the dictionary as the framework for a data collection tool (number of partners, opportunities, environments and individual’s changes in behavior).

My Pre-symbolic Signal Dictionary Example

