

The



Speaker Initiative

**There are many thousands of children and adults
with moderate-to-severe disabilities,
and
No Effective Method of Speaking.**

**As a direct result, many of these individuals
exhibit problem behavior, which significantly
impacts their quality of life.**

The goal of 'The Essential for Living Speaker Initiative' is to provide an effective method of speaking for as many of these *children and adults* as possible, a method that is Continuously Available, Frequently used, and Effortless (CAFE), a method that will last them a lifetime, and to expand their speaking repertoires to include requests for a wide variety of preferred items, activities, and people.

To accomplish this goal, we need to...

- 1- **Identify** these children and adults one at a time,
- 2- **Select** a new method of speaking for each of them, and
- 3- **Confirm** the effectiveness of this new method by teaching each learner to make requests for one or more highly preferred items and activities.

You can become part of this initiative by completing these three steps with one or more children or adults who are described as 'echolalic' or 'non-verbal' and who have no effective method of speaking. You will find that chapter 6 in *Essential for Living* will help you complete these steps.

When a child or an adult with whom your work, who has not previously had an effective method of speaking, begins to make requests with spoken words or an alternative method of speaking for one or more items, activities, or people, send the following information to...

patrick@essentialforliving.com or
troy@essentialforliving.com

Your name and agency: (optional)
age of the learner:
female or male:
new method of speaking:
items, activities, or people the learner is now requesting:

On our website, www.essentialforliving.com, we will acknowledge this achievement, welcome your learner into the community of speakers, add one to our cumulative count of new speakers as shown below, and send a **complimentary learner scoring manual** to you for use with an additional learner.

Become part of this initiative and encourage your colleagues to do so as well.

