

From: Anna Miller <annamiller@hucklebeespeech.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:37 AM
To: Stephanie Juhl
Subject: Visual Communication at the Town Square
Attachments: Screenshot 2024-07-25 at 9.20.21 AM.png

Good morning! My name is Anna Miller and I am the owner and operator of Hucklebee Speech, LLC. By day, I'm also a full-time speech and language pathologist with the Watertown Unified School District. It has been such a joy to see the Bentzin Town Square come to fruition over the last several years and I love what it has added to the beautiful Watertown community.

I am reaching out with an idea that would help make the Town Square even more inclusive to all members of the community, particularly for our children with disabilities. We have a large population of children in Watertown who experience communication challenges and rely on visual supports or speech-generating devices to interact with others. Playgrounds across the state (and country) are recognizing and embracing this by installing visual communication boards. I'll attach an example. Although not a playground, the Bentzin Town Square is a place where the entire community gathers and it would not only be functional, but send a message of inclusion and acceptance to all types of communicators, abilities, and disabilities. It could be something that stands alone like the one in the example, or it could be a simpler version that is attached to the back of the Town Square sign. With a large community of Spanish-speaking families, both English and Spanish could also be included.

Please consider if this could be part of the Town Square and if there is anything I can do to help. I would be happy to donate my time to such an important and valuable tool for our community!

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Play Communication Board

Talking to friends is so much fun, pictures help us talk with everyone!

bandaid	fun	ice pack	time	chase	run	climb	push	swing	slide	yes	no
not on board	fast	hot	slow	up	down	in	out	on	off		
I	it	who	what	when	again	now	that	this	both		
me	my	not/don't	come	do	ready	how	all done	silly	good		
you/your	drink	eat	get	give	go	where	big	happy	more		
listen/hear	help	like	look/see	hurt	rest	away	little	sad	quiet		
tell	stop	play	turn	want	wolf	there	there				

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KIDS