Communication chart 1

What am I communicating to you?

At this time This describes the context – what is happening in the environment or what has just happened ('the trigger').	**When this happens** This describes the child's behaviour – what other people can see or hear.	**We think it means** This describes what you think the behaviour means the child may be thinking or feeling.	**We need to do this** This describes what others should do or not do in response.
Music has started to indicate it is time to stop the activity and have dinner.	Carries on with activity. Body becomes tense. Will not look towards adults. Throws self on floor.	I don't want to stop. I'm not ready.	Give warning of change and use symbols and single words to reinforce transition.
Afternoon drop off – mam has left setting. Recent change from a.m. to p.m. sessions.	Throws self on floor Makes distressed noises.	I don't understand what is happening.	Make expectation clear, what task or play is available, use objects of reference or Makaton and word.

What do we need to do next?

Before music is played, a member of staff to indicate that the activity is finishing using single words and 'Finished' visual symbol.
Reinforce the 'music message' with the symbol for dinnertime, allow processing time before repeating.

Communication chart 2

What are you communicating to me?

We want to tell you Here you describe what you want to tell the child, for example that an activity is coming to an end.	**To do this we** Here you describe how you tell the child. For example, telling them that an activity is coming to an end and what you will be doing next.	**Helped and (or) supported by** This element describes the other communication aids you can use to support the child or young person's understanding, such as traffic light cards or objects.
That it is dinnertime. That it is time to stop the activity.	Make sure that you are at Hassan's level, then make sure that Hassan can see your face and say the word 'dinner'. Make sure that you are at Hassan's level, then make sure that Hassan can see your face and say the word 'finished'.	Showing Hassan his plate. Use the Makaton sign for finished as you say the word finished.

What do we need to do next?
Make a list of frequently used signs or objects to share between setting and home.