



Important Considerations

- Schedule and Service Delivery
 - Consultation model should be considered
 - Schedule must be flexible to allow for services across settings





Important Considerations

- Goals and Programs
 - Vocabulary expansion
 - Changing social questions
 - Spontaneity





Important Considerations

- Goals and Programs
 - Functional communication training
 - Social Skills
 - Hidden curriculum
 - Conversations skills
 - Etc.



AAC

- Issues of system management
 - Repairing system when broken
 - Insuring people in individual's environment are familiar with system/signs
- Use across multiple settings
 - Insuring system is always available
 - Insuring vocabulary is appropriate and functional across multiple settings



AAC

- Keeping system current
 - Someone must update system regularly
 - Teach new signs/add new pictures
- Funding challenges





Autism

- Issues with Motivation
 - Do not respond to social reinforcers in the beginning
 - Difficult to determine what child is responding to in the environment: may have limited reinforcement repertoire





Important Considerations

- There is a direct correlation between having effective communication skills and challenging behaviors

*Effective
Communication
Skills*

=

*Fewer
Challenging
Behaviors*





Important Considerations

- Staff supporting individuals with ASD must receive sufficient training in:
 - the unique learning characteristics of individuals with ASD
 - strategies to support effective communication





Quality of Life

- ***Quality of Life*** is the product of the interplay among social, health, economic and environmental conditions which affect human and social development.

Ontario Social Development Council, 1997





Quality of Life

- In QOL surveys, the following are the most frequently noted components of a good quality life:
 - A good job
 - Quality relationships (with quality more highly rated than quantity)
 - Physical well being





QOL and ASD

- Better QOL is associated with:

– Q

– L

Low Rates of Problem Behavior is Correlated with Better Communication Skills

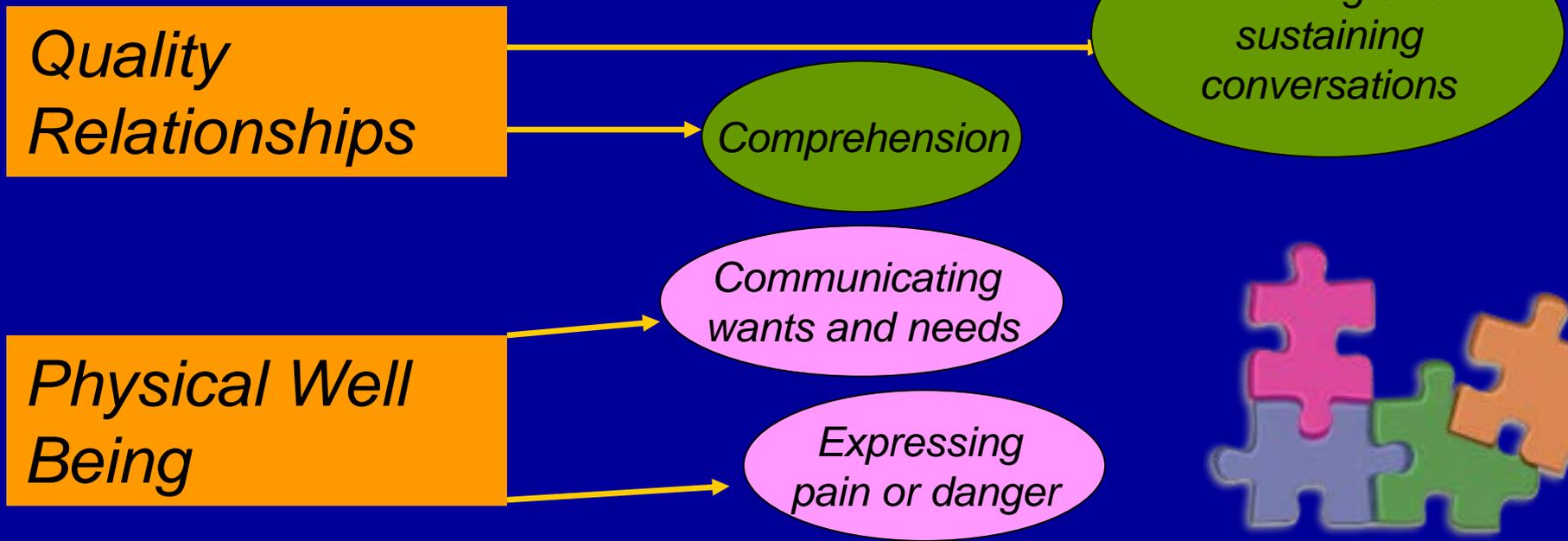




Communication and QOL

- It has been estimated that 75 % of a person's day is spent communicating in some way

QOL Factors





Communication and QOL

A Good Job

Effective communication skills are not only essential in getting a good job but they are also key to being successful on the job

In a Wall Street Journal Survey of over 480 companies, employers ranked “communication abilities” as the # 1 desirable quality of future employees





*It all comes back to:
Effective Communication*

