Social and functional communication may be challenging for individuals with ASD, even if they are verbal. The use of visual supports, like the cards described in this template, can help support and facilitate conversation. The variety of options included make it a versatile tool that could be used for both receptive and expressive purposes across settings. Additionally, keeping the cards together on a pulley clip will make them functional and easily accessible. If needed, adjust the number of cards based on the needs of an individual.

**FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION PULLEY CARDS:**

Functional communication pulley cards are small card sets that are hole punched and clipped together on a wearable pulley clip. These cards can be worn by the people working with an individual with ASD and accessed as needed, by either the person with ASD or by the support person. The cards can serve as cues to communicate to the individual specific options that exist (i.e., Set 1: Receptive Communication Cards) or to support the individual in communication (i.e., Set 2: Expressive Cue Cards). Blank cards are included for additional manipulation.

**SCENARIOS FOR USING CARDS:**

One common functional communication card to include is a “please wait” card. Oftentimes, individuals with ASD have a tendency to engage in maladaptive behaviors when their caregiver’s or teacher’s attention is divided to gain their attention. “Please wait” cards can be used to prevent disruptive behaviors.

Once it is recognized that the individual is displaying precursor behaviors or signs of becoming agitated, the support person can select the “please wait” card from the pulley, put it in the line of vision of the individual, and point to it. This provides information for the individual that he or she is waiting.

When the individual is waiting appropriately, positive verbal praise such as, “good job waiting,” should be provided. Such praise should be given every few minutes to encourage the individual to continue displaying the appropriate behavior. It may also help to continue to show him or her the “please wait” card at regular intervals to remind the individual that he or she is still waiting.

Other common cards might include, “yes” and “no”, which can both be shown to an individual when he or she is asked a question to provide an opportunity for the individual to make a choice.
**Social Communication Pulley Cards:**

Social communication pulley cards are small card sets that are hole punched and clipped together on a wearable pulley clip. The card size makes them less obvious to other individuals participating in the conversation creating a sense of a casual dialogue. These cards can be included in social skills activities or when opportunities for social communication arise, like meals or leisure time, (i.e., Set 1: Comment and Question Starters and Set 2: Comments, Questions, and Remarks) and indoor/outdoor games (i.e., Set 3: Game Cue Cards). The cards are placed in logical order to support conversation. Blank cards are included for additional conversational options.

**Scenario for Using Social Communication Pulley Cards:**

Set up an environment that would be conducive to a conversation. Consider involving neurotypical peers to participate in a conversation. Use additional visuals supports if needed, e.g., topics to be discussed (see HANDS in Autism® How-To Template: Topic Boards for ideas). If playing a game and potentially losing is challenging for an individual, read a social narrative with an individual first to make it possible for the players to converse and praise each other (see HANDS in Autism® How-To Template: I Like Playing Games). Place the cards close to the individual, where he or she can easily see and read the cues. Prompt the individual to use the cards to start and continue the conversation.

**How to Put Pulley Cards Together**

The template includes 2 different types of cards both in English and in Spanish.

**Functional communication cards** include 2 sets of cards:
- Set 1: Receptive cue cards
- Set 2: Expressive cue cards

**Social communication cards** include 3 sets of cards:
- Set 1: Comment and question starters
- Set 2: Comments, questions, and remarks
- Set 3: Game cue cards

**Materials Needed:**
- Pulley card sets
- Pulley
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Laminate & laminator

**Steps to Make Pulley Card Sets:**

1. Print out a set of functional communication cards or cue cards
2. Laminate materials.
3. Cut out cards in one set (each set has color coding for ease of use).
4. Hole punch the upper left corner of the cards as noted.
5. Put the cards in the numerical order (see card number on each card face).
6. Use a pulley to attach the cards together.
SET 1: RECEPTIVE FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION CARDS

1. Yes
2. No
3. Please wait
4. Quiet
5. Break time
6. Bathroom
7. Stand up
8. Sit down
9. Walk

©2013 HANDS in Autism®
Interdisciplinary Training and Resource Center
Set 2: Expressive Functional Communication Cards

1. Help
2. Bathroom
3. Break
4. Play / Leisure
5. Sensory
6. Drink
7. Snack
8. More
9. Attention
Expressive Cue Cards

Set 2:

Excuse me

Yes

No

Thank you

Please

©2013 HANDS in Autism®
Interdisciplinary Training and Resource Center

Last Revised: 05/21
**Set 1: Comment & Question Starters**

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I like _____________.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>I don’t like ______.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Do you like _____?</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Have you seen ______?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yes, I ____________.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>No, I ____________.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>My favorite _____.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Have you tried ______?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>What is your favorite ______?</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Set 1: Comment &amp; Question Starters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Set 2: Comments, Questions, & Remarks

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Do you like this?</td>
<td>I also like it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Why is it your favorite?</td>
<td>This is fun!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>I do not like it either.</td>
<td>How interesting!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Thank you for sharing.</td>
<td>This is nice!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Amazing!</td>
<td>Me too!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Set 3: Comment & Question Starters

1. Nice move!
2. Good try!
3. Congratulations!
4. Nice game!
5. This is fun!
6. Can I go first?
7. You can go first.
8. Do you want to play again?

Set 3: Game Cue Cards