

## Communication

To make your youth group truly accessible, you should have multiple options for communication such as verbally talking, writing responses on paper or a device and sign languages. Autistic people might be very good at expressing themselves, some may struggle to put their thoughts together into clear sentences and some may use assistive technology or alternative methods to communicate.

Some young people may struggle with starting conversations or may need reassurance that their communication preferences are known and respected. This can be done with stickers, lanyards or badges that can be easily interchanged by the young person. Work with the young person to agree the rules of each colour badge and make sure that staff and other members know and respect these rules.

**A red badge** means that the person does not want to talk to anyone, or only wants to talk to a few people. The person might talk to others if they feel able to, and that is okay; the approached people are welcome to talk back to them in that case.

**A yellow badge** means that the person only wants to talk to people they recognise or prefer to have people start conversation with them. They may start a conversation with someone if they feel able to or prefer to have someone start a conversation with them.

**A green badge** means that the person wants to talk to other people. They might have trouble starting conversations but want to talk to people who want to have a conversation.

