

Dear ABC Staff,

The Blue Cat Café is off to a great start thanks to all of you and the support you have given us! I thought it might be helpful to share some advice for talking with The Blue Cat Café students. My student teacher, Chelsea, put this together to share with you. The students want to chat with you and here are some tips for chatting with them.

### **Students who use a communication device**

Ask yes/ no questions and open ended questions, too. Then wait about 10 seconds before asking again.

Example: You ask, “How are you?” (then, count to 10 in your head)

If no response, ask a yes/no question.

You: “Are you having a good day?” (count to 10)

### **Students with limited speech**

May need a little extra help to express a full sentence. You can help by scaffolding the conversation.

Example: You: “How’s your day going?”

Student: “Hot dog.”

You: “Oh, are you having a hot dog for lunch today? (wait for response) How do you feel about hot dogs? Do you like them, not like them?”

### **Students who have a lot of words**

May need to be prompted to stay on topic. These students can express a full sentence and need a little help staying focused.

Example: You ask how they are and they start to talk about a favorite game. You could ask, “Is that on topic? (pause) No. I asked you, ‘How are you?’ After you answer, we can talk about your game.”

I hope you find this helpful.

See you at the coffee cart!

Take care,

Ms T and

Chelsea Keenan (Practicum Student)