

The



Speaker Initiative

**There are many thousands of children and adults
with moderate-to-severe disabilities,
and
No Effective Method of Speaking.**

**As a direct result, many of these individuals
exhibit problem behavior, which significantly
impacts their quality of life.**

The goal of 'The Essential for Living Speaker Initiative' is to provide an effective method of speaking for as many of these children and adults as possible and to expand their speaking repertoires to include requests for a wide variety of preferred items, activities, and people.

To accomplish this goal, we need to...

- 1- **Identify** these children and adults one at a time,
- 2- **Select** a method of speaking for each of them,
and
- 3- **Teach** each one of them to make requests for their most preferred items and activities.

You can become part of this initiative by completing these three steps with one or more children or adults who are described as 'echolalic' or 'non-verbal' and who have no effective method of speaking.

You will find that the 'Methods of Speaking' chapter in *Essential for Living* will help you complete these steps.

When a child or an adult with whom your work, who has not previously had an effective method of speaking, begins to make one or more requests with spoken words or an alternative method of speaking, send their first name, initials, or disguised initials, and their age, along with your name, position, and mailing address to: essential4living@me.com.

On behaviorchange.com, we will welcome them into the community of speakers, acknowledge your and their accomplishment, keep a running count of new speakers that have been generated as a result of this initiative, and send a **complimentary learner scoring manual** to you for use with an additional learner.