Interaction Checklist for Augmentative Communication, Revised Edition (INCH)

Publisher/Date:
• Imagineart Communication Products, 307 Arizona Street, Bisbee, AZ. Published, 1991.

Purpose:
• Individually-completed, clinical checklist which includes strategies, modes, and contexts for communicative interaction. It helps identify the critical features of interaction necessary for successful communication between augmentative system users and their partners. The tool does not assess the individual’s linguistic skills. Rather, it focuses on the person’s ability to use an AAC (augmentative and alternative communication aid) to communicate with others in typical settings such as home, school, work, and community.

Provides:
• The checklist is comprised of 32 communication behaviors, referred to as “strategies.” These are organized into 4 communication scales including Initiation, Facilitation, Regulation, and Termination. The individual is rated in each of 5 communication modes: Linguistic, Paralinguistic, Kinesic, Proxemic, and Chronemic. The individual's competencies are rated as “present,” “emerging,” “absent,” or “not applicable.” Specific strategies identified as a weakness are targeted for training.

Standardization Issues:
• The checklist is not standardized.

Reliability and Validity Issues:
• No reliability or validity data is presented.

Additional Points:
• The authors note that the instrument is a checklist or tool, and is not designed as a “test.”
• The absence of thorough, cited, theoretical information and reliability and validity data may relegate the tool to function as a “supplement” to other assessment methods/sources, and to be used by well-skilled clinicians.
• The intervention suggestions presented may be helpful references.