involving persons who have severe disabilities. These basic communication rights are as follows:

All persons, regardless of the extent or severity of their disabilities, have a basic right to affect, through communication, the conditions of their own existence. Beyond this general right, a number of more specific rights are crucial to the communication needs of persons with severe disabilities. These basic communication rights are as follows:

5. The right to request feedback or information about a state, an object, a person, or an event of personal concern.
6. The right to be treated with dignity and addressed with respect and courtesy.
7. The right to have communication acts acknowledged and responded to, even when the intent of the communication cannot be understood.
8. The right to have access at all times to any needed augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices and other assistive devices, and to have those devices in good working order.
9. The right to environmental contexts, interactions, and opportunities that promote and encourage communication and socialization.
10. The right to access interventions and supports that improve communication (e.g., remediation, therapy) and that are consistent with the person’s communication and socialization goals.
11. The right to be addressed directly and not be spoken for or talked about in the third person while present.
12. The right to be addressed linguistically appropriate.
13. The right to request, and be given, attention from and interaction with another person.
14. The right to express personal preferences and feelings.
15. The right to make choices from meaningful alternatives.
16. The right to make comments and share opinions.
17. The right to have verbal and written information, including information about changes in services and support.
18. The right to be informed about people and events in one’s life.
19. The right to be listened to about one’s own needs and the person’s wishes.
20. The right to be understood about one’s people, things, and events in one’s immediate environment.
21. The right to make comments and share opinions that are consistent with the person’s communication and socialization goals.

For more information, go to the NJC website at: www.asha.org/njc