Communication Bill of Rights

I have the right:

- to be given real choices
- to say no, refuse and reject choices
- to ask for what I want
- to share my feelings
- to be heard and responded to even if the answer is no
- to ask for and get attention and interaction
- to have and use my speech system all the time
- ask and know about my schedule and world
- to be taught how to communicate
- to have my speech system in working order and to have a back up
- to be a full and equal member of my community
- to be treated with respect and dignity
- to be spoken with, not about
- to be communicated with in a sensitive manner

From the National Joint Committee for the Communicative Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities. (1992). Guidelines for meeting the communication needs of persons with severe disabilities, Asha, 34(Suppl. 7), 2–3, adapted by K. Ahern, MSED