I hear you!
Do you hear me?

We all have gifts to share.
Everyone Communicates

We can communicate with our WORDS, using verbal communication.

Some people speak English.
Some people speak Spanish.
Some people speak Chinese.
Some people speak more than one language!
We can communicate with our hands!

Some people communicate using American Sign Language (ASL).

Some people communicate using signs made just for them. These are called idiosyncratic signs.
Do you know any other ways we can communicate?
We can communicate through our gestures.

Can you guess what is being communicated in these pictures?
We can communicate by pointing.
We can write or draw to communicate our thoughts, feelings or ideas.
We touch to communicate.
To get someone’s attention.
To get or give direction.
To receive comfort or share joy.
We can communicate with our eyes.

How many different feelings do you see communicated here?
We can communicate using technology.
Phin communicates that she is happy by smiling, laughing or making high vocalizations.
She communicates that she is tired or needs a break by yawning or closing her eyes.
Phin says “yes” by nodding her head up and down. This is also her way of saying “I hear you”.

She is learning to say “no” by shaking her head, but more often she just turns her head away from you if she doesn’t want to do something.
Phin has a speech valve.

It is a valve (cap) that goes over the opening of her tracheostomy tube. It helps create the pressure needed for sound. She sometimes wears a purple one, and sometimes it’s white.

It is easier for Phin to make sounds on the ventilator because it helps to force air that makes the vocal cords vibrate. The sounds she makes on the ventilator often sound different than the sounds she makes while wearing her speech valve.
Phin is learning to use Touch Chat.

- Using the motion of her head, she is able to choose images that represent a word and the iPad will say the word she has chosen.
- Right now she only uses this device at home. As she gets more comfortable with it she will bring it to your classroom to show and share with you.
How can you communicate with Phin?

• Direct questions for or about Phin to Phin.
• Make and maintain eye contact when you’re speaking with her.
• Speak at a normal pace but allow extra time between your parts of the conversation and hers. It may take her a little longer to respond.
• Use facial expressions or gestures to help make your message clearer.
• Sing your message.
• Keep trying!
Everyone wants to be part of the conversation.

Communication is how we learn.
Communication is how we relate.
Phin is ready to communicate with you.
Are you ready to communicate too?