A Book About Consent

An introduction to giving or refusing consent, written by Laura Jones for Developmental Disability WA.



Lots of people like to help other people.



Advocates like to help. Support staff like to help.
Lots of different people like to help others.



Before people help you, they must ask you if you agree to them helping you.



They must ask for your consent.



This means they must check with you before they do the things they think might help.



They might say "Do you give consent for me to do this to help you?"



First, they must tell you what they want to do to help. They must tell you in a way you understand .



They must check that you have understood.



Then they must ask if you want them to do what they have said.



This is asking for your consent, or your permission, for them to do what they have said to help you.



If you say YES, you are telling them YES, I want you to do that to help me.



If you say YES, you are giving them your consent.

You are giving them your permission.





If you say NO, you are telling them NO, I do NOT want you to do that.

If you say NO, you are NOT giving your consent.
You are NOT giving them permission.



If you say YES and give your consent, it is OK if want to change your mind later.



It is OK to change you mind if you want to, whenever you want.



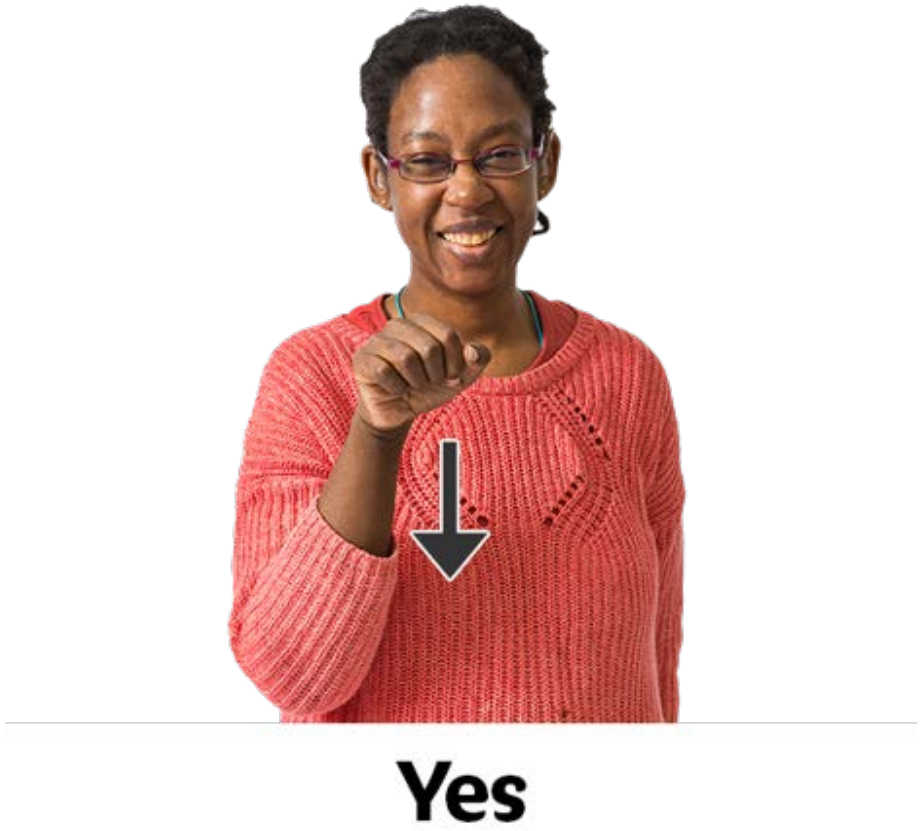
You can say YES in different ways.



You might use your voice to say the word yes.



You might nod your head to say yes.



You might move your hand to sign yes.



You might point to the word yes.



You might point to a picture, symbol or word to say YES.



You might have another way that you say YES.





You can say NO in different ways too.

You might use your voice to say the word NO.



You might shake your head to say NO.



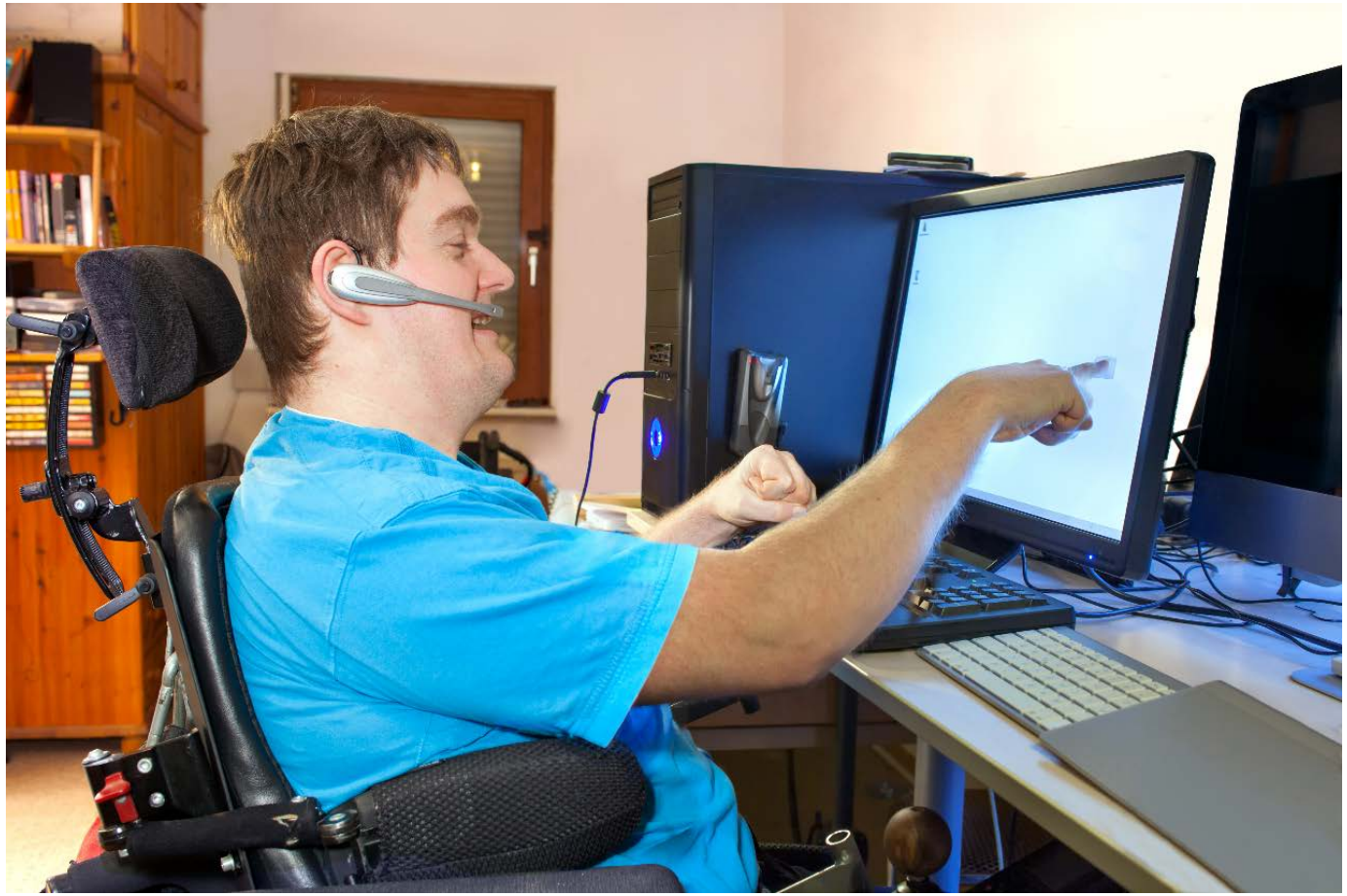
You might point to a picture, symbol or word to say NO.



You might move your hand to sign no.



You might use a switch, a talker or an iPad to say NO.



It is important that the person asking for your consent knows how you say yes and no.

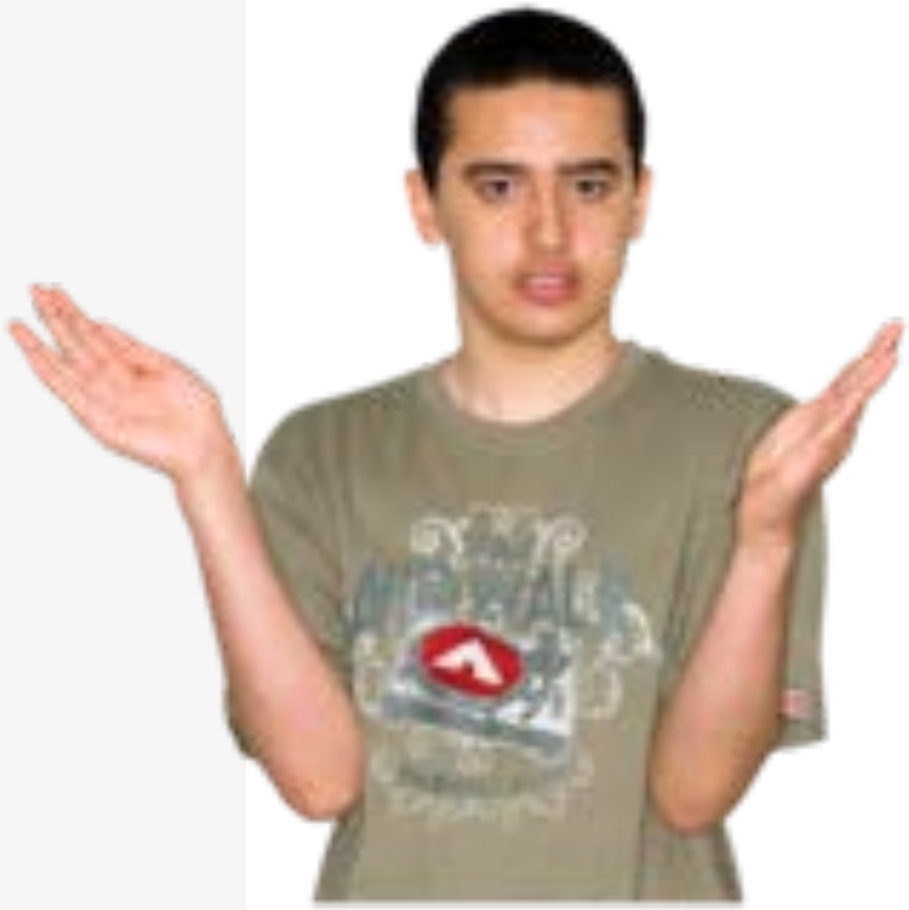


They should check with you and with the people who know you well.





When someone asks you for your consent, you might not know if you want to say yes or not at first.



You might need to say “I don’t know” or “I’m not sure” and that is OK.



You might need more information to help you decide.

You might need to ask your own questions to help you decide.





You might want more time to think about your answer.



You might want to ask people you trust for help to decide.

You might want someone else to choose for you.



All of these things are OK.



It is important that you have a way to tell people "YES", "NO", and "I don’t know".







It is important that you have a way to tell people "maybe", or "I’m not sure yet".





It is important that the person asking for your consent lets you have your say.





Remember, if you say "YES" first and then you change your mind, you can still say "NO" and take away your consent at any time.

