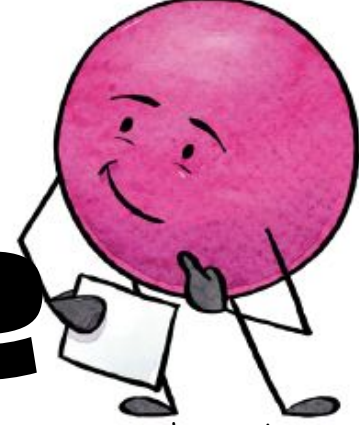


Close your eyes & **i*m*a*g*i*n*e**



Imagine you are an astronaut and have crash landed on a new planet. You step out of your spaceship and take a look around. Over the hill you spot lights, and see a village. Friendly little blue aliens come out of their houses to greet you. You say hello, and tell them all about yourself. Just then your stomach starts rumbling. You remembered you haven't eaten anything in a long time so you tried asking if they had any food you could eat. The aliens looked confused and didn't understand anything you said. You knew what you wanted to say in your head, but it wasn't coming out in a way they could understand. You felt frustrated that you didn't know how to talk to them. What could you do to make it so they knew you were hungry and wanted to eat? Is it even possible to communicate with others without using words? Hmm...

****Open your eyes and DISCUSS:**

Can you come up with any ideas on how to communicate without words?
(POSSIBLE ANSWERS: Facial expressions, body language, gestures, pointing/using hands, ASL, writing, drawing, using technology equipment (AAC device, texting, computers), touching, eye contact/movement etc)

While this was just something you only had to imagine, some people deal with a similar situation everyday. Having difficulties with speech can make it hard for others to understand you. It helps when the other person shows patience, understanding, acceptance, and kindness to work together find a way to communicate. Most everyone can communicate, it's true. But the way others communicate might not be the exact same as you. Some people don't use words to say how they feel. Not having the words to talk doesn't make someone any less able. Open your eyes and heart to discovering more amazing ways to talk and others will be grateful!