**COMMUNICATION**

**His speech is sometimes difficult to understand; his vowel sounds can be indistinct and he occasionally substitutes "th" for "f." He tends to speak very softly when answer questions and he can get very loud when excited. Over time, most people find that their "ear" acclimates to his speech.**

**His spontaneous language tends to be more complex than his responses to "wh" questions. He may comment on what is going on in the environment or ask "wh" questions to gain information.**

**His responses to "wh" questions tend to be 1-2 words and may be about the topic, but not the answer to the question asked.**

**When he initiates a conversation, it is usually about a familiar topic (see conversational webs on the following pages). Once the conversation starts, he tends to give all the information he knows about the topic in what appears to be a somewhat random order. If a communication partner is persistent in asking "wh" questions, he will usually give a correct answer after he finishes what he is trying to say. The conversational turntaking structure outlined on the next page is a good strategy for talking about familiar topics with him. After he makes a comment, his conversational partner should comment on what he said and then ask a question. This strategy helps keep the conversation going.**

**If you cannot understand something he says, ask him to say it again. If you can still not understand him, ask him to say it a different way. Finally, if he is still unintelligible, ask him to show you. He is used to communication partners using this strategy and will often spontaneously restate and rephrase when he senses that he is not being understood.**

