Supporting our Communicators

AAC Prompt Hierarchy

Aided Language Stimulation

INDEPENDENT
Student does not need any assistance or prompting from adult

EXPECTANT PAUSE
Adult uses extended wait time with nonverbal expectant facial expression

POSITION PROMPT
Adult holds device/hand close to student’s line of vision with expectant facial expression

INDIRECT VERBAL
Adult tells student that something communicative is expected

DIRECT VERBAL
Adult gives specific verbal direction for communicative task

GESTURAL
Adult uses facial or body gestures to communicate a specific communicative task

MODEL
Adult demonstrates communicative task on AAC tool, and student imitates the model

PARTIAL PHYSICAL
Adult touches student to elicit a communicative response from the student

FULL PHYSICAL
Adult places hand over the student’s hand and moves it toward the AAC tool (caution: rarely used)

(Most to Least: New Skills)

(Least to Most: Acquired Skills)

(Senner 2010, YAACK 1999)