

## CHALLENGE WEEK

The Weekly Challenge will give you ideas of how to use and model on the AAC device every day. Each challenge is short and will not require a lot of preparation. In addition, each day of the week has a theme. The explanations for each theme are below. Remember, relax and have fun when you are communicating with your child/client; don't make it feel like work!

### **Modeling Monday**

The challenge for Mondays will always be to model at least 2 words. These words will be the same words that are suggested in the 2020 Saltillo calendar. See how many times you can use these words in the day. Challenge yourself each week to do more!

### **Topic Tuesday**

Tuesdays will challenge you to focus on a specific topic. The topic could be a category of words (like animals), a set of descriptors (big/little), or other topics. Tuesdays will be your chance to model and use words that are functional fringe or outside of most core word lists. See how many words you can model and use!

### **Wait Time Wednesday**

Many of the challenges will focus on you modeling for the AAC user. But on Wednesdays, it is your chance to practice your "wait time". This is the day where you get to ask questions (or otherwise request a response) and then WAIT. Remember, it is important to wait 10-20 seconds after you ask a question. It feels weird to wait that long, but we know that AAC users need this extra time; so, focus on waiting on Wednesdays!

### **Thursday Thoughts**

The Thursday task will challenge you to have a conversation with the AAC user. This is an opportunity to share your thoughts and opinions in a conversation. We also want to encourage the AAC user to share their thoughts with us! Each week a different topic or question will be presented that you can discuss with the AAC user.

### **Friday Functions**

Requesting is often the first, and sometimes only way, we ask AAC users to use their device. BUT, requesting is a small part of what we communicate on a daily basis. On Fridays, we challenge you to model and use the device for different reasons of communication. Functions like greetings, directing actions, sharing information, etc. will be the focus.

### **Social Saturday**

Often, we focus so much on teaching vocabulary words, how to make sentences, etc. that we forget to teach kids how to talk to and converse

**Challenge Week for: January 2021****Modeling Monday**

January 2021

How many times can you model these words: wonderful, see, think? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: That's wonderful!, It looks wonderful!, I feel wonderful!, I see it!, Do you see it?, Can you see me?, I think that's cool!, I think so!, I think you should...

**Topic Tuesday**

January 2021

This month's topic is winter animals. Many animals live in arctic regions that remind of us the cold, snowy winter. Penguins, polar bears, whales, and seals all live in the arctic. Have fun reading books this month about arctic animals. Find YouTube videos with these animals. Or search Pinterest for a simple arctic animal craft (we searched "winter animal craft" and found many simple, fun ideas!).

**Wait Time Wednesday**

January 2021

Ask at least 3 "why" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about?. Here are some "why" questions you can ask: Why did that happen?, Why?, Why are you happy?, Why do/does ...?

**Thursday Thoughts**

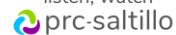
January 2021

Let's talk about winter sports! Do you like hockey? Skiing? Skating? Or maybe you don't like any winter sports. Maybe you hate the cold weather! Talk about winter sports today with your AAC user; the sports you like, ones you would like to try, talk about why you don't like certain sports. You may even look up YouTube videos on some of the sports while you talk about them.

**Functions Friday**

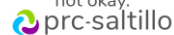
January 2021

This month's function is: request attention. Getting the attention of others is an important communication skill. We have to make sure our communication partner is listening to us. We also request or direct attention to others while we converse. Spend time today modeling requesting and directing the attention of others. Some words to use and model: look, here, \*names\*, you, come, come here, see, listen, watch

**Social Saturday**

January 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is... learning to tease. We aren't advocating being mean to others when teasing. But, we often gently tease our friends and family about things they have said or done. Laughing with our friends and family often helps build stronger relationships. So take some time today to model gently and lovingly teasing someone. You may need to talk about when it is okay to tease and when it is not okay.

**Sunday Funday**

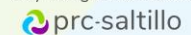
January 2021

Reflect back on the week... what was your favorite activity/task? Do it again and have some fun!

**Tip of the Week**

January 2021

Don't expect sentences right away! We know that typically developing children do not begin speaking in complete, grammatical sentences. Learning language is a process that takes time! We start talking by learning to use one-word utterances, then two-words, then three-words, then we add grammar, etc. Just because our AAC users are often older when they get a device, they still need time to learn and develop their expressive language skills. So, don't expect your AAC user to start speaking in sentences when they first get their device.



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