

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: February 2021**Modeling Monday**

February 2021

How many times can you model these words: but, this, you? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: But why?, But I want to do it!, But it's my turn!, This is mine., I like this., Can I have this?, You dot it., I can help you., How are you?

**Topic Tuesday**

February 2021

This month's topic is Valentine's Day! You can talk about so many things while doing crafts, shopping, and many other everyday activities. Some words you might choose to focus on while modeling and talking about Valentine's Day: colors (red, pink, white), foods (candy, chocolate, etc.), and flower names (roses, etc.). Whatever you decide to do, remember to model and have fun!

**Wait Time Wednesday**

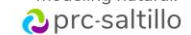
February 2021

Ask at least 3 "when" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about?. Here are some "when" questions you can ask: When did that happen?, When is it my turn?, When will it be over?, When can we go?

**Thursday Thoughts**

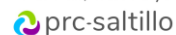
February 2021

Have a conversation this month about someone who inspires you! First, you may need to discuss what "inspire" means. Use core words to talk about and teach the concept; use words and phrases like: good/better, make good/better, do good, etc. You could also use this as an opportunity to talk about Black History Month and the many inspiring figures we celebrate this month. Remember to keep your language and modeling natural.

**Functions Friday**

February 2021

This month's Friday Function is request permission. We use this skill frequently every day and with many people. We request permission in many ways: we join others, we get items (snacks, toys, etc.), we ask to do something, etc. Being to use your words to request permission for specific things is useful on a daily basis. So take some time to practice requesting permission. Here are some examples: Can I help?, Can I do it?, May I have it?, Can I try?

**Social Saturday**

February 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is commenting. How many times can you comment on something today? You can comment on a book, something you see, the show you are watching, the song you are listening to, etc. There are so many things to comment on! Focus on modeling your comments throughout the day today.

**Sunday Funday**

February 2021

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

**Tip of the Week**

February 2021

Think out loud while modeling language! This strategy can be used to target a variety of skills. Trying to find word? Think out loud about why you are pushing buttons and looking in certain places. This helps the AAC user build vocabulary knowledge (and the organization of it). You could also use this strategy to model self-talk. We use self-talk for many reasons on a daily basis! Keep it natural and keep modeling!



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