

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.

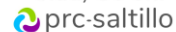
Social Saturday

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: March 2021**Modeling Monday**

March 2021

How many times can you model these words: we, all, on? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: What should we do?, Where are we going?, We can try!, This is all mine!, All done!, Can I have all of this?, Turn it on., Put it on that., Go on.

**Topic Tuesday**

March 2021

This month's topic is St. Patrick's Day! This is your chance to talk about leprechauns, rainbows, clouds, pots of gold, wishes, green, and luck. Read a book, do a craft, watch YouTube/cartoon, or just eat a bowl of Lucky Charms while you model language about St. Patrick's Day. If you don't have words like leprechaun in your device, you can add them or use other core words, like green, little, man, silly, fast, etc.

**Wait Time Wednesday**

March 2021

Ask at least 3 "where" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about?. Here are some "when" questions you can ask: Where is it?, Where are we?, Where should we go?, Where are you?

**Thursday Thoughts**

March 2021

Let's talk about luck! What do you feel lucky to have in your life? Have a conversation and share your thoughts and opinions. Or have a lighter conversation and talk about what you would wish for if you had 3 wishes from a leprechaun. Remember to model your thoughts and answers on the AAC device and keep the conversation natural.

**Functions Friday**

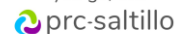
March 2021

This month's Friday Function is direct to stop. This can be a powerful and important skill to teach to AAC users. When they can direct others to stop doing something they don't like (being too loud, etc.), it can be very powerful. Being able to communicate to others to stop can give AAC users some control over their life and world. Here are some core words you can use to model directing others to stop: stop, stop please, don't do that, no like, don't like, don't want

**Social Saturday**

March 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is turn taking. Turn taking and using words about turn taking are important words to learn. How many times can give someone else a turn today? A turn in the game? A turn in the conversation? A turn picking the book? There are so many ways to take turns throughout the day. Model taking turns as many times as you can today. And here are some core words you might use: you, do it, my turn, I try, you go, etc.

**Sunday Funday**

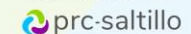
March 2021

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

**Tip of the Week**

March 2021

Don't over prompt! Allow the AAC user time to respond and avoid the urge to help them use the device by holding their hand to push a button. This is often called hand-over-hand prompting. AAC users can become dependent on these prompts. So it is best slow down, give them time to respond, and keep modeling on the AAC device.



© 2020 PRC-Salttillo. Non-commercial reprint rights for clinical or personal use granted with inclusion of copyright notice. Commercial use prohibited; may not be used for resale. Contact PRC-Salttillo for questions regarding permissible uses.

SymbolStix®, Copyright 2020, SymbolStix, LLC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.