

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 2021 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 with others. This is especially true for our AAC users; we forget to teach them how to talk with each other and to others. Every Saturday, social skills will be the challenge. Some social skills that may be targeted include participating in greetings, such as, saying "hi" or "bye"; taking turns in a conversation; or using manners, such as, "please" and "thank you". It is important that we focus on, model, and teach our AAC users how to be social and talk to all other people!

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

April 2021

How many times can you model these words: can, help, let's? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: Can you do it?, I can do it!, Can we?, I need help., Help please., Can I help?, Let's go., Let's try it!, Let's do it!

**Topic Tuesday**

April 2021

This month's topic is Earth Day! In April, we celebrate the Earth and all the things we can do to protect it. There are so many things you can talk about for Earth Day! Recycling, plastic, or nature words... You decide what words you want to focus on. You can make a plan to help the Earth, complete a craft, or read a book about the Earth. Some words you might model: recycle, plastic, plastic bag, box/cardboard, other nature words (trees, oceans, etc.), use, more, less, and many more!

**Wait Time Wednesday**

April 2021

Ask at least 3 "what" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about? Here are some "when" questions you can ask: What is that?, What are you doing?, What happened?, What do you want?

**Thursday Thoughts**

April 2021

Spring break is a welcome rest from school! Today, talk about your Spring Break. You can talk about what you plan to do; you can talk about a favorite trip you took one year; or you can plan a "perfect, dream" Spring Break trip. Make sure you ask the AAC user about their thoughts and opinions while sharing your Thursday Thoughts on Spring Break.

**Functions Friday**

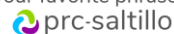
April 2021

This month's Friday Function is relay future events. You can continue the Topic Tuesday by talking about your plan to help the Earth. Talk about all the things you "will" do to help. OR you can talk about your weekend plans, where you want to go on vacation, etc. Learning to talk about the future is an important skill. We all plan for things, so make sure you model that for your AAC user too!

**Social Saturday**

April 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is greetings. We do this all the time! It helps us create relationships with others and is an important social skill. We greet others without thinking; it can feel automatic. But, today take time to slow down and model all the greetings. You can model things like: hello, goodbye, what's up, see you later, or whatever your favorite phrase is.

**Sunday Funday**

April 2021

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

**Tip of the Week**

April 2021

Don't talk too much! Communication partners often talk the most turns in a conversation with AAC users. It is important that you give the AAC user an opportunity to respond. That means you have to take turns, you have to slow down and wait for a response, and you don't need to fill the silence with chatter.

