

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: May 2021**Modeling Monday**

May 2021

How many times can you model these words: up, down, and out? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: Put it up., It's up there., Pick me up., Sit down please., Let's sit down., Down there., Let's go out., DO you want to go out?, Can I go out?

**Topic Tuesday**

May 2021

This month's topic is bugs! Go on a bug hunt outside to see what you can find. If you don't want to collect them with a bug catcher, take pictures of the bugs you find, draw a picture of it, or write out a list! Each bug you find can then be an opportunity to describe it: what color is it? Is it big or small? Long or short? Does it fly? There is so much to talk about using both core and fringe words!

**Wait Time Wednesday**

May 2021

Ask at least 3 "who" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about?. Here are some "who" questions you can ask: Who is it?, Who did that?, Who is here?, Who wants XX?, Who broke it?

**Thursday Thoughts**

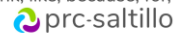
May 2021

As the start of summer approaches and the school year ends, let's plan a vacation! Where do you want to go this year? What will you do? Make sure you find out where the AAC user wants to go and what they want to do. We can all have fun planning our dream vacation!

**Functions Friday**

May 2021

This month's Friday Function is stating opinions. Being able to state and share our opinions, what we think about something and why, is an important skill. We use this skill often in conversation; it helps us develop relationships and connect to others. It is also important to know how respond when you don't agree with something someone has said. Some core you can use when sharing your opinions are: I think, like, because, for, don't

**Social Saturday**

May 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is using protesting. We all disagree with others sometimes. Having the words to express this feeling or disagreement. Take time today to model protesting with words. Some words you could model: no, not, no thank you, don't want, don't like

**Sunday Funday**

May 2021

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

**Tip of the Week**

May 2021

Don't ask too many questions! This isn't a test. AAC users shouldn't be required to prove they know where words are. Communication is a back and forth between two people. Asking questions limits this back and forth interaction. Once the answer is provided, there is little reason to keep talking. Focus instead on making a connection and communicating with the AAC user.

