

## 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.

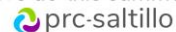
### **Social Saturday**

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: June 2021****Modeling Monday**

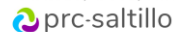
June 2021

How many times can you model these words: forgot, excited, and summer? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: I forgot!; He forgot his shoes!; You forgot this., I'm excited!, She looks so excited., Are you excited?, This summer I want..., I love the summer!, What should we do this summer?

**Topic Tuesday**

June 2021

This month's topic is camping! Many people enjoy getting back to nature and camping. Today, read a book about camping, spend the afternoon camping in the yard, camp out in the living room, or actually go camping! However you decide to go camping, have fun! Here are some words you model while talking about camping: tent, fishing, fire, camp fire, hiking, outside, trees, fun

**Wait Time Wednesday**

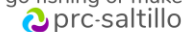
June 2021

Ask at least 3 "how" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about?. Here are some "how" questions you can ask: How are you?, How are you feeling?, How did that happen?, How come?, How did you do that?

**Thursday Thoughts**

June 2021

Let's continue talking about camping with a fun "Would you rather..." question. Ask this fun question to find out what the AAC user would rather do. Remember, in a conversation, you can tell your opinion, you can talk about why you feel a certain, and more. Keep your conversation natural! So, if you were camping, would you rather go fishing or make s'mores?

**Functions Friday**

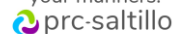
June 2021

This month's Friday Function is confirming/denying. This important skill can be used in many situations throughout the day. There are many ways that we confirm and deny throughout our day. It may be simpler to think about this skill as being able to answer "yes" or "no". Think about how many ways we confirm and deny throughout the day and try to model those words. Some words you may model are: yes, no, sure, yep, no way, uh-huh, I love it, I don't want to, maybe, whatever

**Social Saturday**

June 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is expressing manners. Words and phrases like please, thank you, you're welcome are important to building relationships with other people in our lives. We often teach these very early to young children, so we should be modeling them to our AAC users, as well! Spend some time today modeling one or more of your manners.

**Sunday Funday**

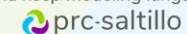
June 2021

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

**Tip of the Week**

June 2021

When you are doing something you like and are interested in, we are more engaged and learn more. This is true for our AAC users too! So, move away from the drill-based activities, like looking at and labeling pictures. Instead, find out what your AAC user loves and find ways to incorporate those things and activities into the plan. Once you know what they like, you can identify the core words you want to model. Keep it natural, have fun, and keep modeling language.



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