

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: July 2021**Modeling Monday**

July 2021

How many times can you model these words: they, didn't, but? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: They want to play., They like you!, They are fun!, I didn't do it., You didn't like it?, I didn't want that., I want to but..., But it's my turn!, But I don't want to!

**Topic Tuesday**

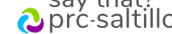
July 2021

This month's topic is having a cookout! It can be different and fun to cook and eat outside while having a cookout! There are lots of foods you can talk about like: hamburger, hot dog, buns, chips, watermelon, soda, water, and more. You can also talk about the things you may see at a cookout like: grill, umbrella, deck, table, chairs, paper plates, and more. Have fun cooking out and talking about all things related to your cookout!

**Wait Time Wednesday**

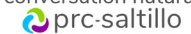
July 2021

Ask at least 3 "why" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about? Here are some "what" questions you can ask: Why did you do that?, Why?, Why are you sad?, Why did he say that?

**Thursday Thoughts**

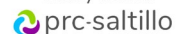
July 2021

Fourth of July is celebrated around the country and we often see fireworks this time of year. Have a chat today about fireworks. Do you like fireworks? Are they fun? Or do they scare you? What is your favorite color or type of firework? Make sure you ask questions, wait for a response, and share your opinions too! Keep your conversation natural.

**Functions Friday**

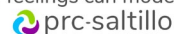
July 2021

This month's Friday Function is negotiate. We negotiate every day. Whether it's deciding what to have for dinner or picking what to watch on T.V. Negotiating is a skill we use every day. It is important to teach AAC users ways to negotiate. Some words you may model while negotiating: like, want, don't, later, not, that, how, about, I, you, and many more!

**Social Saturday**

July 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is using expressing feelings. We feel many different emotions every day. Some things you may feel are: happy, sad, scared, tired, anxious, nervous, uncomfortable, or hungry. It is important we teach AAC users to express their feelings to help meet different needs and build relationships with others. So, how many feelings can model today?

**Sunday Funday**

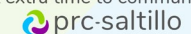
July 2021

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

**Tip of the Week**

July 2021

Are you waiting long enough for a response from your AAC user? Research suggests we should be waiting at least 10 seconds for a response from AAC users. When you ask a question, wait at least 10 seconds before helping. When you are in a conversation, wait at least 10 seconds for the AAC user to respond before helping or prompting. It can feel weird to wait that long, but AAC users need that extra time to communicate.



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