

## 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.

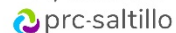
### **Social Saturday**

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: August 2021****Modeling Monday**

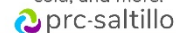
August 2021

How many times can you model these words: little, we, my? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: It's so little!, You're not little., That is a little one., We are ready!, Where are we going?, We had fun!, My turn, That's my XX, My favorite!

**Topic Tuesday**

August 2021

As the summer nears to an end and back to school is upon us, let's spend a few more days at the pool. This is the perfect time to use your low-tech board to communicate (and protect your AAC device)! While you are playing and enjoying the water, you can model all the words associated with the pool! Some words you can model are: pool, towel, sunscreen, pool toys (balls, rings, etc.), fish, diving board, dive, warm, cold, and more!

**Wait Time Wednesday**

August 2021

Ask at least 3 "when" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about?. Here are some "when" questions you can ask: When are we going?, When did it happen?, When did you do that?

**Thursday Thoughts**

August 2021

Summer is coming to end, kids are going back to school, and our vacations are over. Spend some time today talking about your favorite thing about summer. Maybe it was a vacation you took. Maybe it was a picnic or cookout with family and friends. Whatever your favorite memory is talk about. Ask you AAC learner about their favorite summer too!

**Functions Friday**

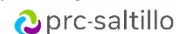
August 2021

This month's Friday Function is share/show objects. Look! I want to show you something! We communicate things like this all the time! It helps us make connections to people and things around us. Take some time today to model this function, some words you could model are: look, that, this, there, here, see, I, you, like, listen

**Social Saturday**

August 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is interjections. Words and phrases like wow, OMG, uh-huh, yuck, and many more communicate a lot! They can tell others how we feel, they can help us build relationships with others, and they can communicate a lot with a small word or phrase! We all use interjections! Make sure interjections you (and those close to the AAC learner) use are programmed in the AAC device. Have fun modeling all your interjections today!

**Sunday Funday**

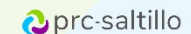
August 2021

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

**Tip of the Week**

August 2021

Language and communication take time to develop. We talk to babies for an entire year before we expect them to talk back to us. In that time, babies babble and explore all the things in their lives to make connections and learn to communicate. Our AAC learners need the same exposure to their language and chance to explore their AAC device. Let them explore the device, the words, and learn to communicate!



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