

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: September 2021**Modeling Monday**

September 2021

How many times can you model these words: took, like, easy? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: Who took it?, I took them., We took a picture., I like that!, Do you like it?, Like this., It's easy., Was it easy?, Take it easy.

**Topic Tuesday**

September 2021

As we prepare for fall and all the fun things it brings, let's talk about apples. You could talk about all the colors of apples. Which kind of apple is your favorite? Talk about where they grow. You can color a picture, make a craft, or bake an apple pie. Have fun talking about apples!

**Wait Time Wednesday**

September 2021

Ask at least 3 "where" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about?. Here are some "where" questions you can ask: Where did it happen?, Where did it go?, Where is it?, Where are you?

**Thursday Thoughts**

September 2021

Continue Tuesday's Topic! Talk about your favorite treat! Do you like apple-flavored candies? Is apple pie your favorite dessert? Maybe you don't like apples... whatever your preference is, spend a few minutes today talking about apples. Remember to ask your AAC learner if they like apples and keep the conversation going.

**Functions Friday**

September 2021

This month's Friday Function is to request attention. There are many ways to request attention and many reasons to get someone's attention. Model some of those different reasons and ways to request attention today. To request attention today, you could say: look, excuse me, hey there, uh oh, let me show you.

**Social Saturday**

September 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is gossiping. We gossip about many things! We can gossip about our favorite TV shows, books, or other things. Learning to gossip can help us build relationships and connections with people around us. Take a few minutes to model gossiping with your AAC learner today about something they enjoy. What will you gossip about today?

**Sunday Funday**

September 2021

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

**Tip of the Week**

September 2021

Give active feedback when your AAC learner is talking. Giving feedback and responding helps the individual using AAC know they have been heard. When we get feedback, we learn how to respond in conversations and learn new words. Overall, we learn to be better communicators. Help your AAC learner by always responding and giving feedback about what was said.



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