

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.

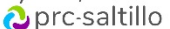
Social Saturday

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: October 2021**Modeling Monday**

October 2021

How many times can you model these words: don't, then, hurt? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: I don't like that., I don't want it., Don't do that!, Then what happened?, First...then..., Then I said..., Does it hurt?, I hurt my toe!, It won't hurt.

**Topic Tuesday**

October 2021

October is AAC Awareness Month! We recommend spending time talking with the AAC learner about how everyone communicates differently. Some people use their voice and some use an AAC device. You could also talk about advocating today and explaining AAC to others so more people learn about AAC. Many systems have messages already programmed in the vocabulary to explain AAC. Model using that message to others and talk about it. Also, spend some time talking about other things the AAC user wants to communicate to others; you may need to program those messages into the vocabulary.

**Wait Time Wednesday**

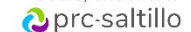
October 2021

Ask at least 3 "what" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about?. Here are some "what" questions you can ask: What is that?, What time is it?, What happened?, What should we do?

**Thursday Thoughts**

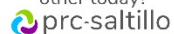
October 2021

Many people enjoy the Halloween time...the costumes, the candy, the decorations, and more! We suggest you spend some time today talking about Halloween animals. Which ones do you like? Which ones are you afraid of? Share your thoughts today on Halloween animals like bats, spiders, snakes, wolves, and more! If you don't want to talk about Halloween, talk about fall animals, like moose, deer, bears, and more!

**Functions Friday**

October 2021

This month's Friday Function is to direct actions of others. Directing the actions of others can serve many purposes. You can stop others from getting hurt, you can give others information, you can get your own wants and needs met, and more! Please pass the salt, be care with that, and please be quiet are all examples of directing the actions of others. How will you model directing the actions of other today?

**Social Saturday**

October 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is joking. Being able to tell jokes and laugh with those around us can help us build relationships with others. And who doesn't love a good joke? Explore the jokes available in the AAC device. Add in new jokes. And talk about your favorite jokes. Have a good laugh today!

**Sunday Funday**

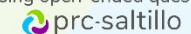
October 2021

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

**Tip of the Week**

October 2021

Learn to ask open-ended questions. Open-ended questions often start with a wh- word, like what, where, why, when, and how. They allow for spontaneous and novel communication and they allow language to grow! Asking only yes/no questions only allows the AAC learner to learn and use two words: yes and no. Open up the possibilities and your communication by using open-ended questions.



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