

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: November 2021**Modeling Monday**

November 2021

How many times can you model these words: she, show, fun? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: She is happy, Where is she?, Is she your friend?, Show me., Can you show me?, Let's show them!, This is fun!, Are you having fun?, Did you have fun?

**Topic Tuesday**

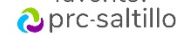
November 2021

Let's talk about fall today! And scarecrows! Make a scarecrow today using playdoh or paint or crayons! Or you could read a book or watch a cartoon about scarecrows. Whatever you choose to do, remember to talk about it. Some things you could talk about are: their cloths (overalls, hats, boots, flannel shirts, and more), where you can find them (farm, fields, crops, etc.), or keep it simple and talk about fall colors (red, orange, yellow, brown). Have fun!

**Wait Time Wednesday**

November 2021

Ask at least 3 "who" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about? Here are some "who" questions you can ask: Who is it?, Who did that?, Who likes this?, Who is your favorite?

**Thursday Thoughts**

November 2021

Keep the fall theme going today as you talk about pumpkins. Do you like carving and decorating pumpkins? Are they fun or yucky? Or talk about pumpkin treats! Do you like pumpkin pie? Pumpkin spice cake or coffee? Or anything else with pumpkin spice? Maybe you don't like pumpkins. Whatever your opinion is talk about it today. Remember to ask your AAC learner for their opinions too!

**Functions Friday**

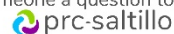
November 2021

This month's Friday Function is request information. There are many reasons that we request more information. Maybe you don't understand or need more information or maybe you are just being curious. Take time to model different ways to request information. Some words you can model are: tell, show, me, more, what, why, how, and many more!

**Social Saturday**

November 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is asking others questions. You could focus on asking questions in social exchanges, like "How are you?", "What is your name?", "How old are you?", and more! Or you can keep your focus more conversational and model asking questions in a conversation. Some questions you can model are: And you?, You?, What do you think? How many times can you model asking someone a question today?

**Sunday Funday**

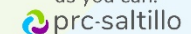
November 2021

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

**Tip of the Week**

November 2021

The communication device is just a tool. Communication partners must remember this! The device is a tool, not the solution. Focus on talking and communicating using this tool so that your AAC learner can see and learn all the wonderful ways they can communicate! Don't worry so much about the device, just talk, keep it natural, and model as much as you can!



© 2021 PRC-Salttillo. Non-commercial reprint rights for clinical or personal use granted with inclusion of copyright notice. Commercial use prohibited; may not be used for resale. Contact PRC-Salttillo for questions regarding permissible uses.

SymbolStix®, Copyright 2021, SymbolStix, LLC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.