

## 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: December 2021****Modeling Monday**

December 2021

How many times can you model these words: how, have, and like? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: How are you?, How did that happen?, How can I help?, I have it!, Do you have it?, Let him have it., I like you., I like that!, Like this?

**Topic Tuesday**

December 2021

Let's talk about snowflakes! There are many things you can do today to talk about snowflakes. You can make a snowflake, read a book about snowflakes, do a science experiment to create snowflakes, or listen to songs about snowflakes. Whatever you decide to do, there are also many things to talk about model. You talk about the color (white, blue, or something different), count the sides, and use other winter-related words, like snow, cold, and more!

**Wait Time Wednesday**

December 2021

Ask at least 3 "how" questions today...make sure you wait for the response! What can you ask about?. Here are some "who" questions you can ask: How are you?, How old are you?, How did that happen?, How many do you have?, How about you?

**Thursday Thoughts**

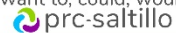
December 2021

Continue the winter theme today by having a chat about a snowy vacation. Where would you go? Would you go to a mountain resort or somewhere else? What would you do there? Would you ski or participate in other winter sports? Or would you stay inside by the fire drinking hot cocoa? Make sure you ask the AAC learner what they want to do and share your ideas!

**Functions Friday**

December 2021

This month's Friday Function is relay past or future events! We don't only talk about things that are happening right now around us. Many of our conversations revolve around sharing stories that happened in the past or dreaming of things we want/need to do. Make sure you model using past markers and future words today. Some words you might use are: -ed, did, went, was, will, am going to, want to, could, would

**Social Saturday**

December 2021

This month's Social Saturday theme is apologizing. We all make mistakes sometimes. To repair our relationships and fix our mistakes, we need to apologize. Today, focus on times when you can say "I'm sorry" or use other apology words whenever you can. How many times can you apologize today?

**Sunday Funday**

December 2021

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

**Tip of the Week**

December 2021

Use your communication device for more than requesting objects. We communicate for many reasons! And as we get older, we spend more time communicating for social reasons (telling stories, sharing experiences and opinions, etc.) than we do requesting a thing. So, remember to use your communication device to model all kinds of language, not just requests.

