

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 2019 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!

Sunday Funday

Sundays can be many things. It can be a time to prepare for the coming week, a time to relax, or a time to reflect on your previous week. Every Sunday, the challenge will ask you to reflect on the 6 challenges from the previous week, Monday – Saturday. You will pick one day and repeat that challenge. It could be a challenge you liked, a challenge you feel you need more practice with, or a challenge/activity in which the AAC user was really engaged. Whatever challenge you pick, you will do it again on Sunday.

Challenge Week for: March 2020**Modeling Monday**

March 2020

How many times can you model these words: don't, walk and listen? At least 5? 10? Here are some things you can say: I don't like that., Don't do that please., Let's go for a walk., He is walking., Listen to the music., I am listening.

**Topic Tuesday**

March 2020

Spring is coming...finally! We love this Spring Movement Game idea from Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.com/pin/AYQAPOQqveV0RduzuMt_LSvA6-YYkTb6LXMQOTpChM6rSzHpYoZUwUvI/

You can hide the eggs around the house or yard. Target specific spring themed words, like flower, seed, sun, bunny, etc. Also, you can use some core words, like see, look, it, that, here, go, open, help

**Wait Time Wednesday**

March 2020

Ask 3 "who" questions today... make sure you wait for the response!

You could ask: Who did you play with today? Who did you see? Who did that? Who is it? Who wants a turn?

**Thursday Thoughts**

March 2020

March is Women's History Month. You could:

- Read a book about an inspirational woman. Talk about her achievements and why you like her.
- Talk about their favorite woman superhero. Wonder Woman and Captain Marvel are very popular these days!

**Functions Friday**

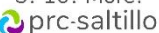
March 2020

Today's function is: state opinions. This could be a great way to extend the conversation from yesterday. You could continue talking about who you like or don't like. If you want you can change the topic and share your opinions on anything: TV shows, foods, books, etc.

**Social Saturday**

March 2020

Today's Social Saturday theme is... apologies. How many times can you model "I'm sorry"? We all mistakes, let's focus on teaching a socially acceptable way to apologize. And it is an important skill to learn to show we care about how others feel. How many times can you model "I'm sorry"?

5? 10? More?


Sunday Funday

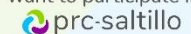
March 2020

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

**Tip of the Week**

March 2020

Always keep your client's/AAC user's interests in mind. What do they like? What don't they like? What makes them laugh? What grosses them out? Do activities that are interesting and engaging for your client. When we are interested and engaged, we pay more attention and can learn more. So make sure your activities are things your client will like and want to participate in.



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