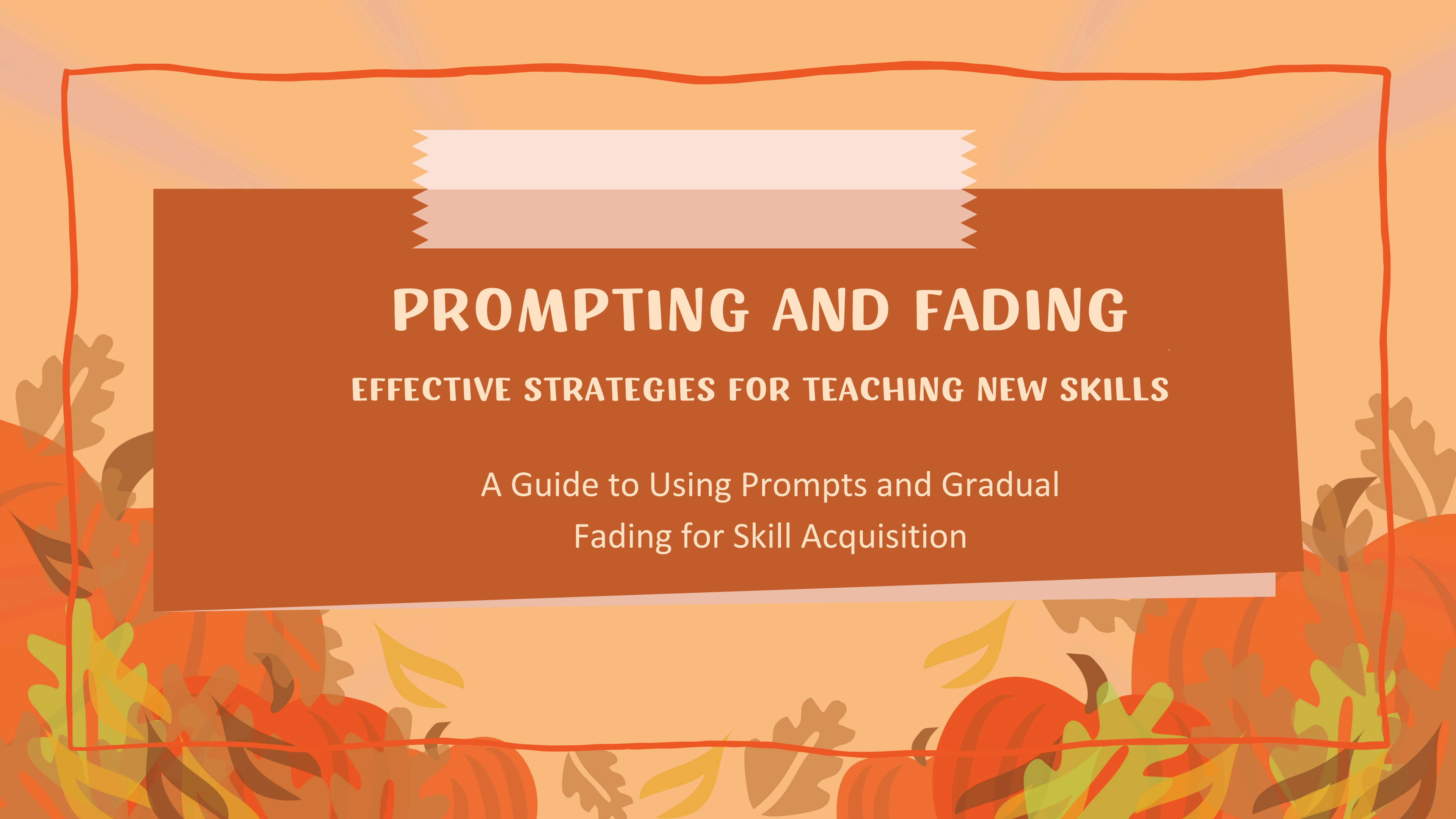




PROMPTING AND FADING

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING NEW SKILLS

A Guide to Using Prompts and Gradual
Fading for Skill Acquisition

What is Prompting and Fading?

- Prompting: A method of providing guidance or cues to help a person complete a task or behavior
- Fading: The process of gradually removing the prompts to encourage independence

Why are they important?

- Help learners acquire new skills with minimal frustration.
- Promote long-term independence.
- Allow for success while reducing errors.
- Most to Least: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/SLyEY4BpCKY>
- Least to Most:

Prompting is an Evidence Based Practice

- Prompting and fading have been an effective and evidence-based practice component of Discrete Trial Teaching procedures, when using task-analysis to teach self-help and adaptive skills, and when teaching replacement behaviors within a BIP.
- Prompting and fading can be utilized wherever and whenever an educator is teachign skills of behaviors!
- Many types of prompt-fading systems have been developed but we will be focusing on **least-to-most** and **most-to-least**.

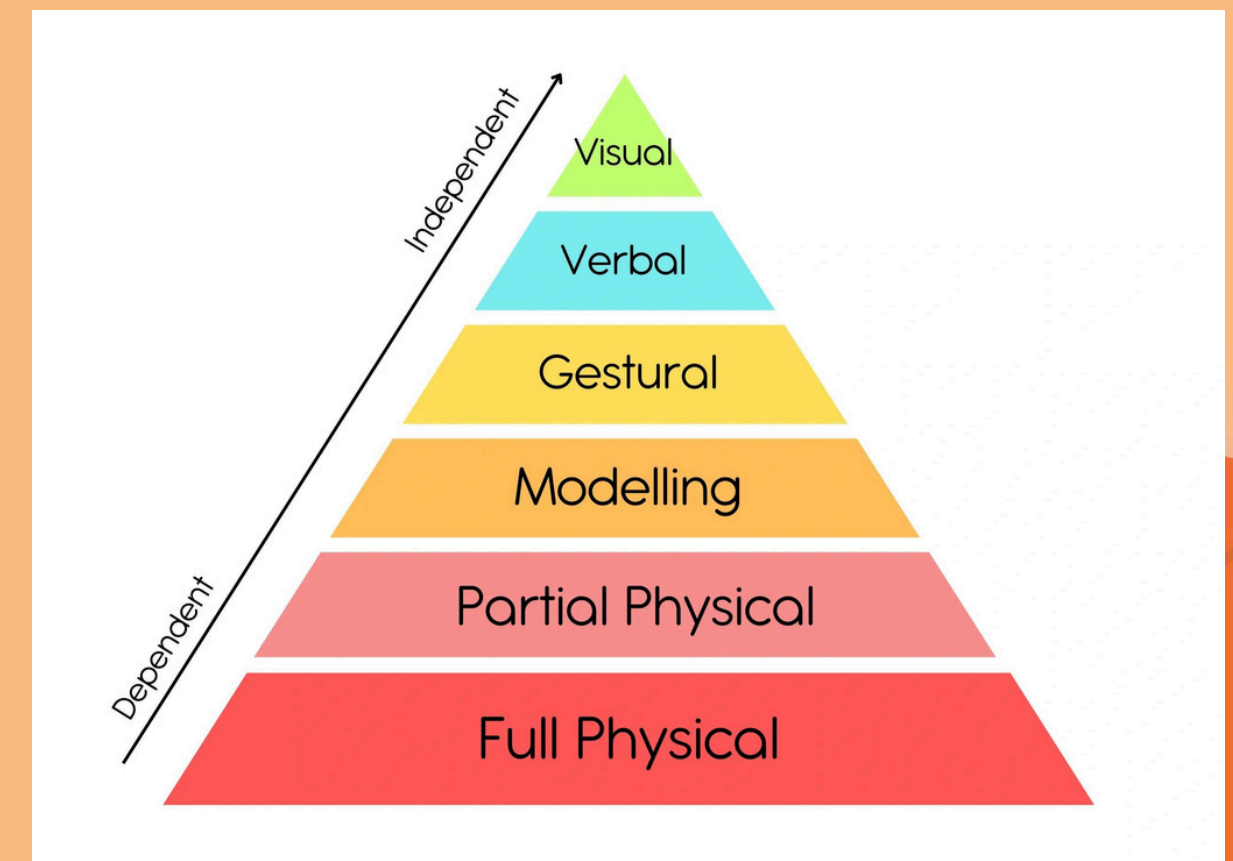
Different Types of Prompts

- **Verbal Prompt:** Speaking instructions (“Say your name”).
- **Physical Prompt:** Hands-on guidance (physically helping a child to zip their jacket).
- **Gestural Prompt:** Gestures, like pointing
- **Visual Prompt:** Visual aids (showing a picture)

The Prompting Hierarchy:

Using a Prompting Hierarchy

- Prompts range from most intrusive to least intrusive
- Example: Start with physical prompts → move to gestural → then verbal → and finally fade all prompts



Example of Most Intrusive Prompt:

Prompt: “Give me the red shoe”- Instructor takes the student’s hand and puts it on the red shoe and helps them pick it up.

Behavior: Student puts red shoe in instructor’s hand

Outcome: Instructor says “Yes! You found the red shoe!”

Example of Least Intrusive Prompt:

Prompt: Instructor says “Give me the red shoe”- Instructor turns their head and looks at the red shoe

Behavior: Student picks up the red shoe and hands it to the instructor

Outcome: Instructor says “Great! That is the red shoe!”

Look out for these when prompting...

- **Physical when it is unnecessary**
- **Using too many verbal prompts- we don't always need words :)**
- **No wait time for student to complete task**
- **Not fading prompts or innappropriate prompt used**
- **Delayed reinforcement**

The Importance of Fading Level of Prompting

Fading prompts ensures that students will not become dependent on the instructor's assistance to complete a task or provide a correct response.

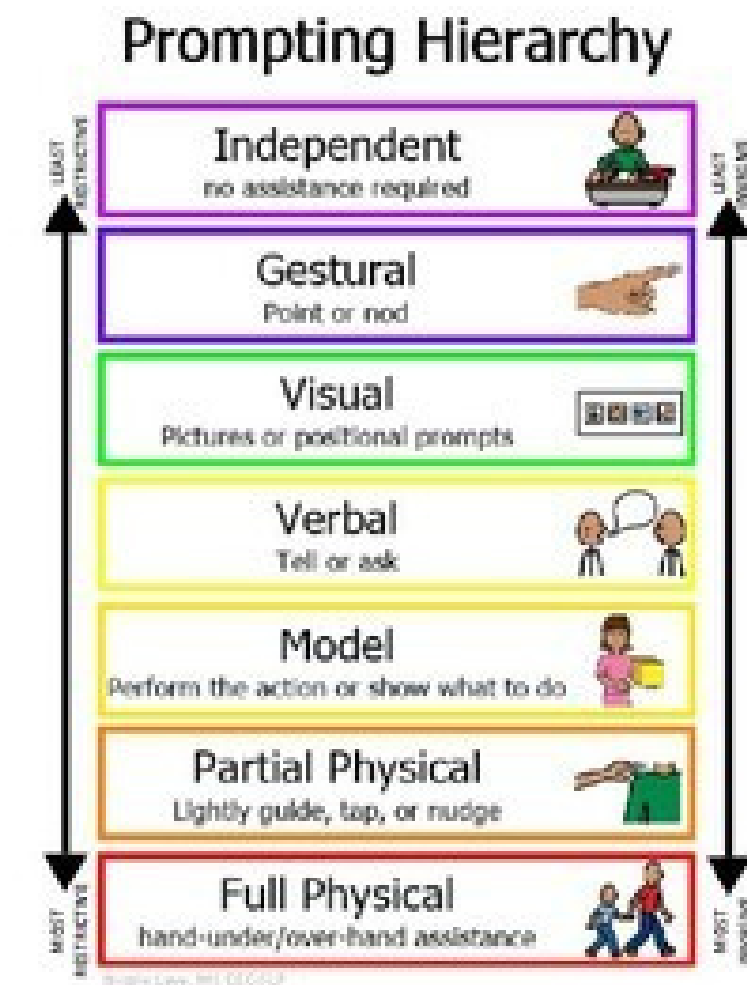
What is the goal?

For students to be able to independently provide correct responses or complete a task in a naturally occurring situation in a typical environment.

How to Fade Prompts:

Fading Prompts for Independence

- Gradually reduce the level of assistance.
- Monitor progress and avoid removing the prompt too soon.
- Reinforce each successful step.
- Example: If teaching a child to tie their shoes:
 1. Initially provide a physical prompt (hand over hand).
 2. Fade to a verbal prompt (“cross the laces”).
 3. Finally allow the child to do it independently.



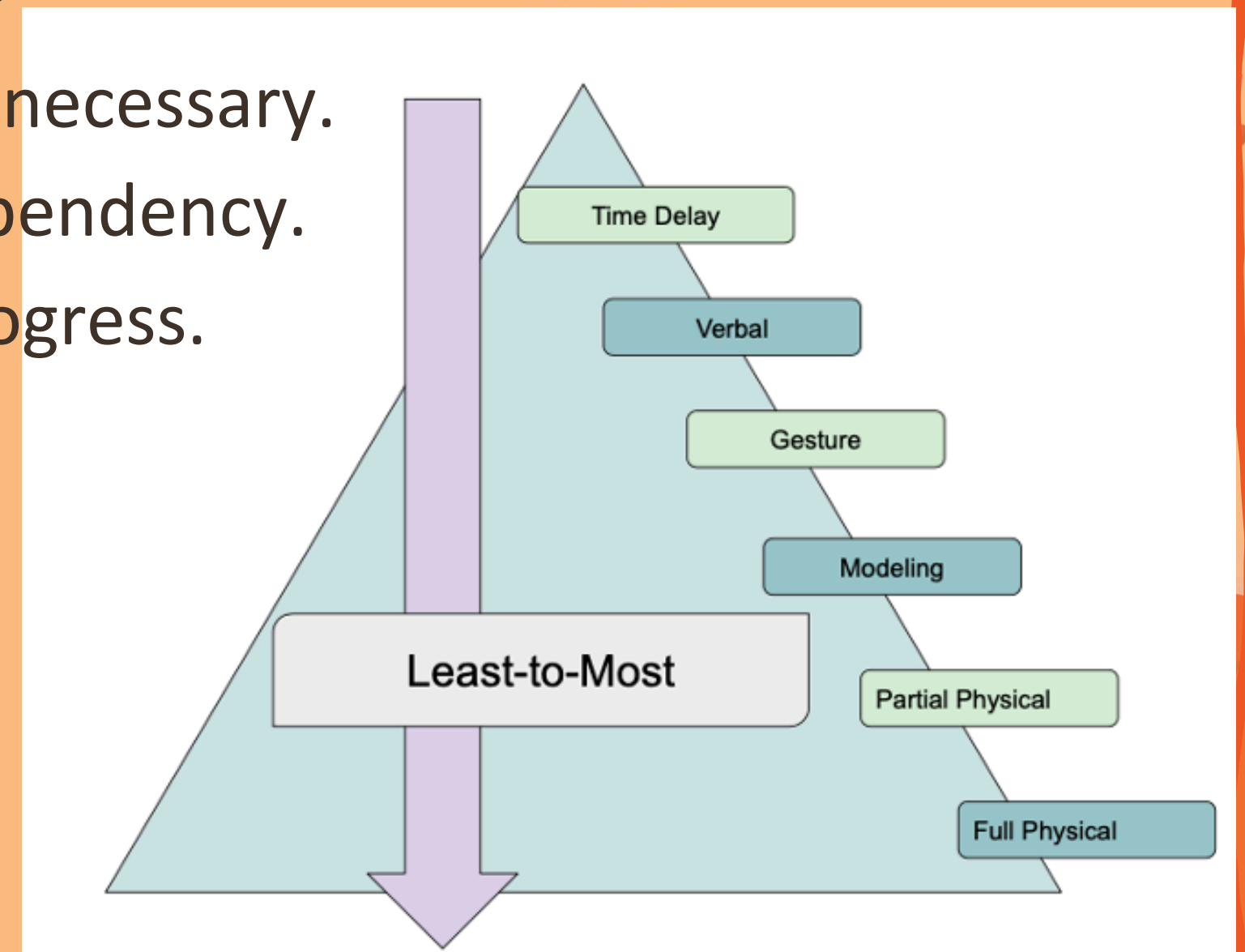
Example Scenario:

Prompting and Fading in Action!

- Teaching a student to raise their hand in class.
 1. Full Prompt - Teacher physically guides the student's hand.
 2. Partial Prompt - Teacher gestures for the student to raise their hand.
 3. Verbal Prompt - "Raise your hand."
 4. Independence - Student raises hand without any prompt.

Tips for Effective Prompting and Fading

- Always start with the least intrusive prompt necessary.
- Gradually fade prompts to avoid prompt dependency.
- Use positive reinforcement to encourage progress.
- Be Patient-move at the learner's pace.



Common Mistakes to Avoid

1.  Prompt Dependency: Using too many prompts for too long.
2.  Fading too Quickly: Removing prompts before the learner is ready.
3.  Inconsistent Prompts: Using different prompts in different situations, causing confusion

Conclusion

Wrapping Up: The Power of Prompting and Fading

- **Prompts are tools for learning**
- **The ultimate goal is independence**
- **Careful fading and reinforcement ensure lasting skill acquisition**



Questions and Discussion

Any Questions or anyone that would like to share their own experiences with prompting and fading?

