

AAC Prompting Hierarchy

(From Positive AACtion - Rocky Bay 2010; Senner 2010; YAACK 1999)

- 1 Expectant Pause**
Give the child time to respond or the opportunity to initiate communication.
- 2 Indirect Nonverbal Prompt**
Use your body language to indicate to the child that something is expected (e.g. expectant facial expression, questioning hand motion with a shrug, etc).
- 3 Indirect Verbal Prompt**
Use an open-ended question that tells the child that something is expected but nothing too specific (e.g. "Now what?", "What should we do next?").
- 4 Request a Response**
If there is still no response, you can try to direct the child more specifically (e.g. "Tell me what you want." "You need to ask me.").
- 5 Gestural Cue**
You can point to the symbol or leave/tap your finger there for several seconds to get the child started with his message.
- 6 Partial Verbal Prompt**
If there is still no response, give them part of the expected response (e.g. "You went to the...").
- 7 Direct Model**
If still no response, model on the student's device (e.g. "The bear is sad."). Pause and wait for the child to imitate or respond.
- 8 Physical Assistant**
Provide hand-over-hand assistance to help the child to form the message using their device.