

Prompt Hierarchy

Use a natural cue



A natural cue is something that happens naturally and lets the communicator know it is time to respond. For example, asking a question is a natural cue; telling someone to respond is not a natural cue.



PAUSE: Say nothing for 5 to 10 seconds

Expectant Delay



An expectant delay is additional wait time. It provides the necessary time for a communicator to process the cue and respond. To use this prompt, look at the communicator and maintain eye contact and an expectant facial expression, such as a cocked head or raised eyebrows. You might also lean toward the communicator.

SHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!



PAUSE: Say nothing for 5 to 10 seconds

Point towards symbols



A point is a quick, silent gestural prompt that makes it more clear to the communicator that a response is expected. To use this prompt, point towards the computer, device, picture board, calculator, etc. look at the communicator and wait expectantly.

You can also use a flashlight for pointing.



PAUSE: Say nothing for 5 to 10 seconds

model



A model is a demonstration of the correct, expected response. Expect a response! If the communicator does not correctly respond, model the response with the communicator while providing the appropriate level of support.



PAUSE: Say nothing for 5 to 10 seconds

If at any time during the implementation of the prompt hierarchy, the communicator should respond incorrectly or inappropriately, go directly to "Model" prompt. This addresses the issue of the communicator "learning" the wrong response.

