



AAC *Silent* Prompting Hierarchy

(For everything *except* PECS Trials)

NOTE: No verbal prompts should be used (although they are least intrusive, they are the hardest to fade)

1. **Wait and expect communication** (Often forgotten in the moment)

2. **General gesture cue** (Gesture in general towards the AAC tool, such as point to it or push it closer to the student, like a reminder their AAC tool exists.)

3. **More specific gesture cue** (Point to the appropriate button/device activation point/PECS card, even a moving point to get their attention better, like you're going to do it, but you don't.)

These next prompts are physical prompts and should only be used if absolutely necessary and backed off of right away (faded) to check if the student can do it without them

4. **Partial physical prompt** by moving the student's arm towards the target. Push their elbow, so their hand hovers over the target.

5. If they stay hovering, **tap the back of their hand.**

6. Lastly use a **full physical prompt/hand-over-hand/hand-under-hand** to activate the target/pick up the PECS card. (Never jump to this. We are not teaching in an errorless manner like most DTI. Error correction is a skill that needs to be learned as well, like navigating back and/or deleting the last word.)

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