

➤ AAC Giggles Galore: April Fools' Edition ➤

April Communication Functions: Gestalt Language Processors

Teaching gestalt language processing on an AAC device involves leveraging the natural tendencies of gestalt processors, such as echolalia, to facilitate meaningful communication.

These activities are designed to leverage the natural processing style of these individuals, using their strengths in understanding and using language in chunks.

Communication Function: Tease/Joke



Activity 1: Expressive Humor and Script Sharing

Objective: To explore humor through scripted jokes and pranks, focusing on the expressive delivery and the shared joy of humor.

Setup: Equip the AAC device with a selection of humorous scripts, jokes, and light-hearted pranks, ensuring a wide variety to match various interests and comfort levels.

Activity Steps:

- **Emotive Expression:** Show some funny scripts, stressing how emotion and expression make jokes funnier and build connections.
- **Empowering Choice:** Let learners pick a script that makes them laugh, guiding on how to express it well. Offer different humor options for those unsure about pranks.
- **Role-Play Fun:** Have role-play fun focusing on expressive delivery in a supportive setting, encouraging comfort with experimentation.
- **Sharing Reflections:** Talk about what made the humor sharing enjoyable and the feelings it evoked, emphasizing the joy in the process and interactions.
- **Social Context Awareness:** Briefly discuss the right times and places for humor, helping learners navigate social cues and contexts.

Why It Works: Utilizes gestalt processing for humor, making it accessible via whole scripts. Emphasis on intonation and emotions aids in understanding social cues in humor, promoting engaging communication.

Activity 2: Scripted Joke Exchange

Objective: Foster expressive and emotionally rich humorous exchanges using tailored joke scripts.

Setup: Equip the AAC device with various joke scripts, ensuring a mix of humorous options.

Activity Steps:

- **Personalized Joke Choice:** Support learners in choosing a joke script that speaks to them, discussing the emotional undertone and potential impact on the audience.
- **Beyond the Script:** While practicing the joke's delivery, encourage learners to add their own flair or spontaneous reactions, making the interaction more genuine and engaging.
- **Sharing with Sensitivity:** Create opportunities for learners to share their chosen jokes, highlighting the importance of paying attention to the audience's feelings and promoting jokes that uplift them.
- **Understanding Humor's Impact:** Facilitate a group discussion on how different jokes were received, focusing on the importance of kind-hearted humor and being mindful of others' emotions.

Why It Works: Using complete scripts aids in natural humor engagement. Emphasizing intonation and emotional expression enables gestalt processors to grasp and utilize language's expressive aspects, improving communicative skill and social enjoyment.