

Scales of Prompting by Communication Partner

Physical Prompts

3. *Maximal:* Full support to select target (e.g., hand-over-hand/push body part) to complete movement and/or train motor pattern and/or teach desired response.
2. *Moderate:* Partial support of body part to initiate movement to select target (e.g., gentle nudge, light weight bearing) and/or stabilize gross movement, OR support guiding user to multiple potential messages in a closed set (e.g., guiding hand to multiple button locations).
1. *Minimal:* Light support (e.g. touch/tap) of body part to direct attention to select target.
0. *Independent:* No physical prompting. No physical contact or cues directing the user towards the use of the system.

Verbal Prompts

Note: Verbal prompts include both spoken prompts and prompts given using speech output on a communication device.

3. *Maximal:* Explicitly specify the target symbol/icon; Tell the child “push (name of symbol)” to teach specific target OR “it’s the color of the rainbow” for the *color* icon; OR “you turn the spoon in the pan” for the verb *turn*.
2. *Moderate:* Provide verbal topic cues or specify a semantic category/page to use for response (e.g., “How are you today?... (wait)... “Find your *feeling* words”, “Use your *places* page.”) OR provide verbal multiple-choice or a closed set of 2-3 responses (e.g., “How are you today?... (wait)... Are you *happy* or *sad*?”, “Yes or no?”, “Chocolate, strawberry or vanilla?”)
1. *Minimal:* Provide verbal direction for communication strategy or cue device use (e.g., “How are you today?... (wait)... Tell me with your talker.”), use close technique to prompt phrase/sentence completion (e.g., “Humpty Dumpty sat on a ____”)
0. *Independent:* No verbal prompting. No verbal cues directing the user towards the use of the system. System use during discourse in which the communication partner does not specifically use verbal prompts to cue system use is considered independent.

Visual Prompts

3. *Maximal:* Point to specific target (e.g., location on device/switch) or modeling device/system use with specific target to teach desired response.
2. *Moderate:* Point to general area (e.g., left side, row) OR give multiple choice options to orient to location OR opening a specific page or vocabulary group on device to cue a response from a closed set.
1. *Minimal:* Point to device/look at device to remind child of strategic use.
0. *Independent:* No visual prompting. No visual cues directing the user towards the use of the system.

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This tool adapted from definitions in “Types of Prompting by Communication Partner,” developed at The Children’s Hospital in Denver by Tracy Kovach, PhD, CCC-SLP

Scales of Prompting by Communication Partner: AAC System Use Data Sheet

User _____ Date _____

Rating Key:

0 = no prompt, 1 = minimal prompt

2 = closed set, 3 = specific target

Note Taker/Rater _____

Each time the user uses his/her AAC system, circle or mark the *highest level* of prompts used in each sensory modality to elicit a response of system use. Space is also provided to transcribe communication partner utterances and AAC user responses if further analysis is desired.

Visual Verbal Physical
1. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

2. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

3. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

4. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

5. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

6. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

7. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

Visual Verbal Physical
8. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

9. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

10. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

11. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

12. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

13. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response:

14. Partner Utterance:

Prompt: 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3
User Response: