

## Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Prompting Hierarchy

1. **Expectant Pause** – Wait and use body language to let the child know that you are expecting a response.

If there is still no response...

2. **Indirect Verbal Prompt** – Use an open ended question to tell the child that something is expected, ex. “What should we do next?”

If there is still no response...

3. **Direct Verbal Prompt** – Use a specific prompt to, ex. “If you want the car to go, tell me go.”

If there is still no response...

4. **Gestural Prompt** – Point to the symbol or leave/tap your finger there to get the child started.

If there is still no response...

5. **Direct Model** – Model the word or phrase on the student’s device and pause and wait for them to imitate.

Consult with your AAC clinician before moving to the next step. Physical assistance should be used in a limited way and with care...

6. **Physical Assistance** – Consider the use of “hand under hand” or “hand over hand” support after consulting with your AAC clinician.

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