

“Scales of Prompting by Communication Partner: A Case Study”

Abstract

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The increased need for methods of documenting research-based intervention within the field of Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) is high. Developing methods to document treatment efficacy is cutting edge research with individuals who are non-verbal and have cognitive delays. This pilot study using the “Scales of Prompting by Communication Partner” during AAC intervention investigated one way to document the prompting needed for individuals who use high technology voice output communication aids to communicate. By evaluating the level of prompting in three different sensory modalities: visual, verbal and physical, the SLP has an indirect method to monitor progress over time. Evaluating multi-sensory prompting may provide a more complete description of communication partner prompting than is seen in many treatment programs targeting faded prompting in only one sensory modality. A case study of an early AAC user with Down Syndrome and significant cognitive delays is presented, and prompting used to elicit a response of AAC system use is described across three sensory modalities. Multi-sensory prompting strategies were used to both elicit responses of AAC system use and help the user control perseverations.