# **Prompt Hierarchy**

Always use Aided Language Stimulation (aka: Modeling, Aided Language Input, Partner Augmented Input) intensively, across all environments. This is the umbrella under which all AAC learning happens.

* Create Motivation – Create circumstances which are highly engaging and make communicating more likely. Be a motivating partner.

## Wait

* Inviting/Expectant Pause – Pause and wait for the individual to respond. Consider using a clock to ensure you are waiting long enough. Some individuals need just a few seconds, others need much longer. For individuals with anxiety, an inviting, distracted pause may be more effective.

## Wait

* Indirect Visual Cue – Use a gesture, point a light at, move the communication system closer or otherwise help the individual direct attention to communicating a message. Use an inviting, expectant pause.

## Wait

* Direct Visual Cue – Directly point at or otherwise indicate possible messages the individual may want to use. Use an inviting expectant pause.

## Wait

* Indirect Verbal Cue –Give a hint, use a partial verbal cue such as phonemic cue or unfinished sentence. Ask what they think. Use an inviting, expectant pause.

## Wait

* Direct Verbal Cue – Directly tell the individual possible messages they might want to share. “I wonder if you think it’s ...” Use an inviting, expectant pause.

## Wait

* Non-Directive Model – Tel the individual something like “Some people might say…” or “I think it’s…” and then model some possible messages. Use an inviting, expectant pause.

## Wait

* Increase motivation and re-expose to target vocabulary – Communication is always a choice, which means that it is ok if the individual does not communicate or says something other than what you were expecting. When this happens, increase motivation and re-expose to target vocabulary. Avoid physical prompts as these remove the choice and increase risk of physical and sexual abuse by grooming compliance behaviors.

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