



Avoiding Prompt Dependence



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DEFINITION

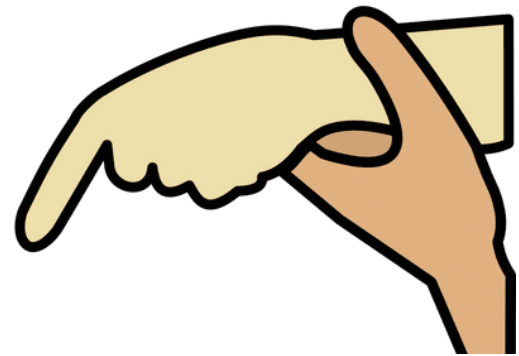
Prompt dependence is when a student requires a prompt to complete a task that has been previously mastered.

SIGNS MY LEARNER IS PROMPT DEPENDENT

The learner is visibly waiting or requesting a prompt to be given. The learner will not complete a task or answer a question without a prompt being given.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HELP LEARNERS BECOME LESS PROMPT DEPENDENT?

As it's our job to prompt learners, it is also our job to fade prompts to ensure the learner does not become dependent on us. The ultimate goal is to give the learner the resources they need to succeed.



WAYS TO FADE PROMPTS

1. Least-to-most: Starting with the least intrusive prompt, waiting 10-30 seconds for the learner to respond, then implementing the next prompt on the hierarchy. This is continued until the child performs the task.
2. Most-to-least: Starting with the most intrusive prompt necessary for a correct response, then fading this by next time, using a lesser intrusive prompt.
3. Time Delay: Giving the learner a specified amount of time to respond or complete the task before prompting them. Example: You ask the student "What color" and you wait 5 seconds before prompting "Yellow"

WE ALWAYS NEED TO HAVE A PLAN TO FADE PROMPTS.

CLASSROOM EXAMPLES

STUDENT WAITS FOR PARA TO GIVE INSTRUCTION IN GEN ED. SETTING.

What went wrong: The student waited to be prompted by para before

What we want to student to do: Follow instruction independently without prompting

How to fade the prompt: Time Delay: Wait 5 seconds before prompting the learner. Increase the time you wait over trials.

STUDENT WAITS FOR TEACHER TO TELL HIM EACH STEP TO BRUSH HIS TEETH.

What went wrong: The student waited to be told each step of the task.

What we want to student to do: Independently brush their teeth by using a visual task analysis

How to fade the prompt: Most-to-Least prompt fading: Consider developing visuals to prompt the learner. Gradually move up the prompt hierarchy to less intrusive prompts.

STUDENT IS ASKED A QUESTION AND WAITS FOR TEACHER TO PROMPT CORRECT ANSWER

What went wrong: The student waited for the teacher to say the correct answer for him.

What we want to student to do: Answer the question independently.

How to fade the prompt: Time delay: Wait 5 seconds before verbally prompting the learner with the correct answer. Increase the time you wait over trials. You could also use least to most prompting by providing the student with a visual to help answer the question!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Workshop on Prompting](#)

[Fact Sheet about types of prompts](#)

[Why Prompts are Like Training Wheels](#)

[How to Reduce Prompt Dependence](#) by the Autism Helper



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