

TIP SHEET

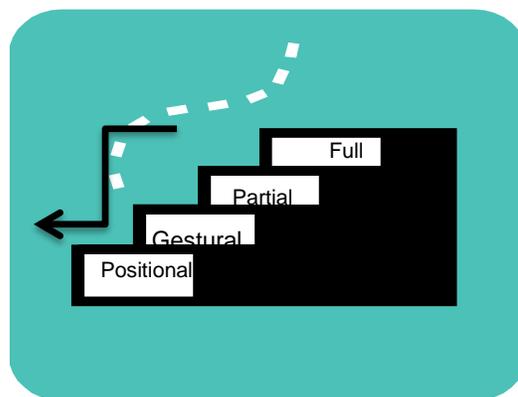
Fading Prompts Effectively

Prompts

- A prompt is assistance given to the child designed to help the child complete a task
- Prompts can also speed up the learning process and they reduce frustration
- However, once a prompt is used, it must be faded out until the child is completing the task correctly and independently

What is Prompt Fading?

- It is important to reduce the level of prompting as the individual begins to respond correctly
- This is used to ensure the child is able to complete the response independently and avoid the child becoming dependent on the prompt
- When we fade prompts, we move through a hierarchy
- The most intrusive prompt is a **full physical prompt**
- This is typically hand over hand prompting for the child to complete the task
- Next, a **partial physical prompt**, typically at the wrist or elbow, is used to guide the child to complete the response
- Once responding has improved at this level, a **gestural prompt**, or a point to the item or action, is used
- **Positional prompts** can be effective when using items by placing the item closer to the child
- **Verbal prompts** are used too, but these are saved for when a verbal response is required from the child (ex: asking the child, “How old are you?” and verbally modeling the word “6”)
- Verbal prompts can be faded too by changing from the verbal to a **visual prompt** such as a notecard with the correct response on it



Examples:

- Fading from a hand over hand, full physical prompt during childhood songs → partial physical prompt at the wrist or elbow → gestural prompt by pointing to the hand → child independently completing the skill
- Using a visual prompt instead of a verbal prompt to prompt child to greet adult or peer and removing the visual prompt following increased correct responding using the visual