

Prompting Behavior

Physical Prompts

The most intrusive / restrictive type of prompt. Ranges from full physical guidance to a partial physical prompt such as a light touch to encourage a response.

Verbal Prompts

Verbal instruction to perform the required action.

Visual Prompts:

Object Prompts

The object acts as a stimulus for the response.

Gestural Prompts

A point or other gesture to prompt the expected response.

Pictorial (two-dimensional) prompts

A picture or other two dimensional representation (words, symbols, etc.) acts as a stimulus for the response.

Positional Prompts

Positioning the correct response in a way that the student is more likely choose it (often used in direct instruction situations).

Model Prompts

Demonstration of the behavior to be performed (i.e., showing how to perform the behavior/action).

Most-to-Least Prompting

- Use when the student has minimum influence over behavior (adult maintains maximum control over behavior)
- Minimizes error (errorless learning)
- When used with physical prompting: Referred to as Graduated Guidance
- High risk of prompt dependency

Least-to-Most Prompting

- Allows the child maximum influence over behavior
- Student may experience more errors
- May need to increase level of prompting if errors continue
- Lower risk of prompt dependency

Prompt Fading

- Systematically fade prompts as soon as possible to avoid prompt dependency
- Plan for prompt fading as part of the teaching plan