

Autism Initiative: Training Series

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Chapter 3.2: Part 6 - Prompting

Part 1: Review of Concepts

- *Prompts* are antecedent stimuli that are used to increase the likelihood that an individual will engage in a target behavior.
- *Response prompts* involve the behavior of another person (e.g., verbal prompts, gesture prompts, modeling prompts).
- *Stimulus prompts* involve a change in the antecedent stimulus (e.g., a change to the physical presentation of the stimulus).

Part 2: Example and Discussion Questions

Read the scenario below to staff, asking them to identify the different prompts used.

You are teaching Margot, a 26 year-old woman with a developmental disability, how to make brownies:

- First, you show Margot how to pour the brownie mix into the bowl.
 - **Question:** *What type of prompt is this?*
 - **Answer:** Model
- Next, you give Margot the oil and point to the line on the measuring cup so she knows where to stop pouring the oil.
 - **Question:** *What type of prompt are you giving Margot?*
 - **Answer:** Gestural
- Margot is a champ at cracking eggs so you simply remind Margot that it is “time to put in the two eggs.”
 - **Question:** *What type of prompt did you give Margot?*
 - **Answer:** Verbal
- This is one of the first times Margot has made brownies. After all of the ingredients are in the bowl, you help Margot stir the ingredients together by putting your hand on the spoon along with Margot’s.
 - **Question:** *What type of prompt is this?*
 - **Answer:** Physical

Part 3: Small Group Activity

Now, divide staff into small groups and ask them to come up with their own scenario, perhaps with a client they are currently working with and identify what types of prompts they are currently using or have used in the past to teach a skill. It might be helpful to give them a copy of the definitions of the types of prompts. **See next page for handout outlining the types of response prompts.**

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TYPES OF RESPONSE PROMPTS:

- **Verbal** = using words as hints, cues, or instructions to assist the client in performing the target behavior.
- **Gestural** = pointing or motioning to give a cue to the client to engage in the target behavior.
- **Model** = demonstrating the correct target behavior to the client.
- **Physical** = providing physical assistance to the client in order to correctly perform the target behavior.