Prompting Reference Guide

Common prompt types and practical examples

Independent response

The learner responds to the natural cue without an added prompt.

Visual	A picture, written cue, or other visual reminder. Example: Show a picture of soap during handwashing.
Verbal	Extra spoken words that help the learner respond. Example: Say “Use soap,” or give a hint: “What comes next?”
Gestural	A movement that indicates what to do. Example: Point toward the soap dispenser.
Model	Demonstrate the action for the learner. Example: Show how to press the soap dispenser.
Partial Physical	Physical guidance for part of an action. Example: Support part of an arm movement toward the dispenser.
Full Physical	Physical guidance through the complete action. Example: Guide the full movement needed to press the dispenser.

Follow the learner’s plan

These are prompt types, not a fixed order for every learner or skill. Use the sequence and response time in the teaching plan, and fade added help as appropriate.

Use physical guidance only when appropriate to the plan, with training and attention to the learner’s assent. Respect withdrawal of assent.

Reference: Delaware Network for Excellence in Autism (2022), Least-to-Most Prompting.