

Prompting Sequence Example

This document provides two examples of prompting sequences: least-to-most and most-to-least. It is adapted from the Prompting Sequence Tip Sheet developed by the Tennessee Behavior Supports Project at Vanderbilt University.

Steps for Handwashing

1. Turn on faucet
2. Rinse hands
3. Get 1 squirt of soap
4. Rub hands together
5. Rinse hands
6. Get a paper towel
7. Dry hands
8. Throw away paper towel

Least-to-Most Example

Jeremy is a 5-year-old boy with autism who struggles to wash his hands independently. While he has demonstrated some pre-requisite skills, he often does not do it. A prompting strategy may help him learn this skill.

Initial Direction: The classroom teacher says, “Jeremy, wash your hands.” 5 seconds pass and Jeremy does not do anything.

Verbal Prompt: The teacher states, “Jeremy, turn on the faucet.” 5 seconds pass with no response.

Model Prompt: The teacher states, “Jeremy, turn on the faucet like this” and models turning on the faucet. Jeremy touches the faucet but does not turn it on.

Full Physical Prompt: The teacher states, “Jeremy, turn on the faucet like this” while placing her hand over his hand and guiding it to turn on the faucet.

Next Step in Handwashing: This process continues for each handwashing step if Jeremy does not respond after 5 seconds or responds incorrectly.

Most-to-Least Example

Denise is a 6-year-old girl with an intellectual disability. She also struggles with handwashing skills but has not demonstrated pre-requisite skills. A prompting strategy may help her learn this skill.

Initial Direction: The classroom teacher says, “Denise, wash your hands” and immediately provides full physical guidance for each set of handwashing.

Fade: After 2 consecutive trials of completing full physical guidance for each handwashing step, the teacher uses a model for the first step – turning on the faucet. Every other step of handwashing will continue with full physical guidance until reaching mastery.

Return to More Support: Denise is completing step 1 (turn on faucet) and step 2 (rinse hands) with only a model. When introducing step 3 (get 1 squirt of soap), Denise does not respond for 2 consecutive trials. The teacher returns to a full physical prompt for step 3 (get 1 squirt of soap).

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