What is Prompting?

Prompting is an evidence-based practice that involves providing a child support when they are learning a new skill or behavior. There are two categories of instructional prompts: response prompts and stimulus prompts. Response prompts are delivered by an adult.

Type of Response Prompts

Gesture Prompts

Use movements or hand signals.



Verbal Prompts

Use verbal language or reminders.



Visual Prompts

Use pictures, words, or other visuals.



Model Prompts

Show how to do the behavior or skill.



Physical Prompts

Guide or physically help to respond.



How do I use it?

- 1. Gain attention (e.g., "John").
- 2. Give the direction (e.g., "Read the first word.").
- 3. Allow time to understand and process the direction (wait 3-5 seconds).
- 4. Provide a response prompt if no response or an incorrect response is given.
- 5. Provide reinforcement directly after the expected behavior or skill being worked on (e.g., "Nice work John! That word is 'red.'").
- 6. Gradually fade away the prompt over time.

Additional resource guides and a full list of references at: https://www.delawareautismnetwork.org/

Suggested citation: Mallory, S., Copeland, K., Dubin., A., & CDS DNEA Team. (2020). *DNEA Resource Guide for Professionals: Response Prompts*. Delaware Network for Excellence in Autism.

