



Self-Reflection: Verbal Referencing

Purpose:

This sheet is designed to establish a snapshot of the sub-skills that contribute to the overall skill of verbally referencing an individual's behaviour. It can act to guide personal goal setting and development as a communication partner. Place a mark under the number which reflects current performance in each area.

The reflection can be revisited regularly as part of personal or professional development. Some people may demonstrate different areas of strength.

If consent is provided, videos of an interaction with an individual is a good way to evaluate performance with each of the elements.

Key steps of verbal referencing:

Notice behaviour has changed • Opportunities occur throughout the day and initially they can be missed. The goal is for this strategy to be more automatic

Describe objectively

- Describe what is seen and answer the question: What is the individual doing?
- This helps individuals understand how their internal feelings relate to actions, and how those actions can be communication. It also helps other people get to know the individual better

Interpret as a statement

- •Communication is not a test
- •We are aiming to interpret and add language in the form of a statement

Model using AAC

- Modelling with AAC gives individuals a way they might communicate next time
- All or part of the message can be modelled using AAC strategies

Wait

- The point of this strategy is not to elicit a response, but to give individuals an opportunity to:
 process what has been said, and
- •contribute if they want to. Look for any indication that they might have something to say too



Get consent before using an individual's aided communication system. **Respect** their right to refuse. **Do not assume** that a yes yesterday is a yes today.



Autonomy in Decision Making (AiDEM) This resource was produced with funding received from the Non-Government Centre Support for Non-School (NGCS) Organisations of Western Australia (2020)

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Reflection Recording Sheet: Verbal Referencing

Person completing reflection	Role:										
Date 1 (x):	Date 2 (o):				Date 3 (/):						
Skill	Never		Sometimes		Half the time		Usually		Always		
SKIII	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
NOTICE opportunities to reference behaviour											
Describe behaviour OBJECTIVELY											
Interpret in the form of a STATEMENT											
MODEL using an AAC strategy											
WAITquietly											

Ideas on how to improve:

Notice Oppportunities	Describe objectively	Interpret as a statement	Model using AAC	Wait
☐ Look out for	☐ Plan and practice ahead	☐ Start with statement	☐ Learn some key signs to	☐ Silently count
opportunities to reference	of time – especially around	words like:	use	- (or another internal
an individual's behaviour	activities and behaviours	- "I think"	☐ Get another copy of a	mantra that helps)
☐ Reference more initiation	they do regularly	- "I wonder"	someone's aided system (or	☐ Use a personal, physical
attempts	- E.g., A communication	- "Maybe"	at least part of it) to model	cue to wait
They might:	dictionary	☐ Ask:	on	- (clasping hands, take
- Look towards an	☐ Ask:	 Was there any 	- Electronic or non-	some deep breaths)
object/person/activity	- Was that a description	pressure to respond to	electronic	☐ Use video to help know
 Change body positions 	or assumption?	what was just said?	☐ Start by modelling a few	wait time provided
- Attempt a sign, sound,	☐ Practice on pets/family		words until confidence	
word, or use aided			improves	
communication				

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