Self-Constructed Scripts

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Vanguard™ www.prentrom.com
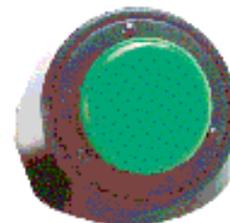
Step by Step™ www.ablenetinc.com

WHAT AND WHY??

Sidney started her augmentative communication device journey using a Step-by-Step™ communication device. She used a variety of 'social scripts' (see Musselwhite & Burkhart, 2001, for more information). Her social scripts were co-constructed by Sidney and her communication facilitators (mom, teachers, therapists, parapro). Sidney now uses a high-tech communication device, the Vanguard™, allowing her to have access to thousands of words, word prediction, and spelling. Sidney is becoming an excellent generative language user. HOWEVER, there are times that Sidney wants to be able to deliver messages more quickly, so she pre-constructs messages, then speaks a sentence at a time, or stores messages into 'notebooks' on her communication device, for use at a later time. This works well when she has access to her high-tech communication device . . . HOWEVER, there are times when she chooses or needs to use a smaller, more portable communication device.

WHEN SHOULD AN AAC USER SELF-CONSTRUCT AND SAVE TO A STEP-LISTING DEVICE??

Below are three samples of times that an individual might want to self-construct and save script messages to a step-listing device:

1) **PORTABILITY:** At times, portability is a huge factor, and the high-tech device is not appropriate. Taking the step-listing device permits the individual to have access to language that s/he has pre-prepared!

2) **ACCESS:** Many AAC users can access high-tech communication devices only when positioned in a wheelchair, with a laptray, with switches carefully mounted, etc. At other times (on a side-lyer, in a beanbag chair, in bed) a step-listing device may be helpful, because it requires only a single switch, without the timing factor.

3) **CLEAR VISUAL PATH:** Occasionally, a high-tech device mounted on a laptray may produce a visual barrier. A perfect example would be a student who is giving a speech or pre-scripted play lines, which can easily be delivered from a step-listing device.

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HOW DOES SIDNEY SELF-CONSTRUCT SCRIPTS??

Sidney uses her Vanguard to produce each message of a social script as a separate message, followed by a period. When she has prepared the entire script, a partner gets the Step-by-Step and places it near the Vanguard speaker. Sidney presses <speak sentence> on her Vanguard and the first sentence is recorded into her Step-by-Step. This process is repeated until all messages have been stored. Sample:

Background Information: Sidney and her family are going on a picnic. They are taking her small, highly jogging wheelchair stroller, which does not accommodate her Vanguard. Sidney & her sister worked to prepare a script that she can use for the drive, and another that she can use during the picnic.

Going On a Picnic Car Script
Note: This script shows only the messages spoken by the AAC user, using a step-listing device, such as:
- Step by Step (www.ablenet.com)
- Sequencer (www.adaptivation.com)
- Hip Step Talker (www.enablingdevices.com)

<Blank: program a blank message, in case the user hits it by accident>

SIDNEY: I am so excited.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: We are going on a picnic.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: How long till we get there?

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: It is too long, I can't wait.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: What do you think we will have to eat?

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: I love hot dogs.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: There is nothing better than a hot dog at a picnic.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: I hope we have ice cream too.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: I absolutely LOVE chocolate ice cream. What is your favorite?

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: I only eat chocolate ice cream.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: Are we there yet?

:PARTNER:

SIDNEY: Are we there yet?

PARTNER: Just kidding! I can wait.

<Blank - program blank message, to show that the script is over>

AT THE PICNIC SCRIPT

<Blank: program a blank message, in case the user hits it by accident>

SIDNEY: We are here! It is picnic time.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: I love picnics.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: Tell me about your favorite picnic.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: My favorite picnic is this one.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: What are you going to eat?

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: I love hot dogs.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: There is nothing better than a hot dog at a picnic.

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: What is next?

PARTNER:

SIDNEY: Let's go! © 2005 www.aacintervention.com