

Summary of Tips from PECS User Support Group Facebook Live Session with PECS Developers, Andy Bondy, PhD and Lori Frost, MS, CCC-SLP

Recorded on April 2, 2020

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/5sreDxR-Z0M>

Tips for Parents:

Routines

- Routine is important for everyone.
- Routines should not become rituals.
- Teach within routines. Do not turn home into a “mini classroom”.
- Use repetition to promote learning. For example:
 - Make bed several times a week, but you do not need to do it every day. It’s okay if it is a little messy. 😊
 - Make pancakes several times a week, not just once in a while.
- Once routines are learned, incorporate communication. For example:
 - Don’t bring the syrup to the table-this sets up an opportunity for making a request.
- Focus on communication across the day throughout routines, rather than “communication time”.

Tips for Professionals (telehealth/remote):

- Interact with empathy.
- When talking with parents, target a portion of a day or a routine that they choose and is manageable. Over time, expand.
- Point out 3 ways we interact with students:
 1. Teaching (e.g., brush teeth)
 2. “Taking care of “(e.g., when there is an emergency to get outside, that is not a time to teach coat zippering)
 3. Entertaining (we watch a ballet for entertainment not learning how to dance)
- Each day requires a balance. It’s okay to entertain. Support families in doing this! Families should not aim to teach all day long.
- Identify routines that are already happening to see how teaching can occur within the routines: learners can ask for an associated item (spoon to eat ice cream), follow a direction (“Give me your plate”) and imitate your actions (“Do it like this” while demonstrating what to do with a napkin).
- Remember that IEP goals are assessed over a year’s time, not in a single session or even a week.
- If you help reduce parental stress, then you will get better outcomes (parents will be more likely to go along with recommendations).
- Remember to begin with a reinforcer rather than an instruction! It will be more successful for everyone.

Ideas for Preparing Materials/pictures with limited supplies:

- Be creative. Use tape as laminate. Tape paperclips to cardboard as holders for pictures. If you don’t have a printer, use post-it notes on cardboard or draw.