AT Tech Tip:
Communication Strategies for:
Partner Assisted Visual-Auditory Scanning

InterACT Team
The Interdisciplinary Augmentative Communication & Technology Team

Communication Partner	Student Response
• Set up a series of picture symbols or word choices on a Velcro board, notebook or other surface. The choices can be arranged vertically or horizontally depending on the student's needs • Preview the choices by saying each choice verbally while pointing to the symbol. • Present your question to the student • Give directions about how you want the student to respond • Present each choice one at a time. Verbally state the choice while pointing to each symbol/word choice. Allow for a 3-5 second delay between each previewed choice • Repeat and point to the choices again if needed. • Provide verbal feedback	The student indicates "yes" when the communication partner verbally states and points to his/her preferred choice. The "yes" response may include: • eye movements • head nods • arm/hand movements • speech approximations • voice-output switch (programmed with messages such as "That's my choice" or "That's the one I want") • touching a "yes" symbol
Examples: 1. It is your turn to choose a class job. Your choices today are: weather chart (point to 1st symbol); lunch count (point to 2nd symbol) or calendar helper (point to 3rd symbol) 2. When you hear the one you want, press your switch 3. Weather chart (point to symbol, wait 3-5 sec.); Lunch Count (point and wait); Calendar helper (point and wait)… etc. 4. You told me you would like to do the lunch count. I will put your name in.	The student listens and looks for his/her preferred choice. The student indicates "yes" or activates a voice-output switch when the communication partner says and points to his/her preferred choice.
Pros: • It is an effective method for communication when more than 2 choices are needed • It is a good strategy for students who rely on both auditory and visual prompts • This strategy is a precursor to switch scanning on a computer or on a voice-output device	**Cons:** • The student must have adequate attention to listen to and look at all previewed choices • The student must indicate "yes" within the time delay provided immediately following a preferred choice