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

InterACT Team
The Interdisciplinary Augmentative Communication & Technology Team

Communication Partner	Student Response
- Establish joint attention with the student - Tell the student what you are going to do: "I'm going to give you (2, 3, or 4) choices. First, listen carefully to the choices." - Verbally state the choices one at time with a slight pause between each choice - Present your question to the student - Give directions about how you want the student to respond (i.e. " You tell me YES when you hear the one you want") - Verbally state each choice one at a time in the same order. Allow at least a 3-5 second delay between each stated choice. - Repeat the choices if needed - Provide verbal feedback	The student indicates "yes" when the communication partner verbally states his/her selection. The "yes" response may include: - eye movements - head nods - arm/hand movements - speech approximations - voice-output switch (programmed with the message, "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. I'm going to give you 3 choices. First listen carefully. Your choices today are: weather chart (pause) lunch count (pause), or calendar helper (pause) 2. You tell me "Yes" when you hear the one you want. 3. Restate the choices: Weather chart (wait 3-5 sec.); Lunch Count (wait); Calendar (wait)… etc. 4. You smiled, indicating "yes" for the lunch count. I will put your name in.	The student listens for his/her choice. The student indicates "yes" or activates the voice-output switch when the communication partner says his/her preferred choice.
Pros: - It is an effective method for communication when more than 2 choices are needed and the student is an auditory learner - This strategy is a precursor to switch scanning on a computer or voice-output device	**Cons:** - The student must have adequate attention to listen to all choices provided - The student must indicate his/her choice within the delay time provided immediately following a stated desired choice