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

InterACT Team
The Interdisciplinary Augmentative Communication & Technology Team
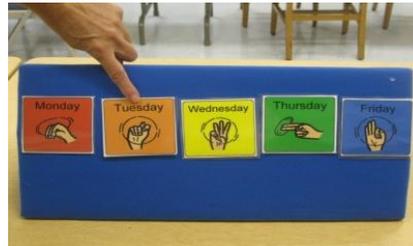
Communication Partner	Student Response
• Set up a series of picture symbols or word choices on a Velcro board, notebook, or other surface. The choices can be arranged vertically or horizontally depending on the student's needs • Review the choices if the student is not familiar with the vocabulary • Present your question to the student • Slowly point to each choice (picture, symbol or text) without saying what the choice is. Allow at least a 3-5 second delay between each choice. • Give verbal feedback when the student makes a choice (i.e. " I see by your head nod that you have chosen Tuesday")	The student indicates "yes" when the communication partner's finger or pointer is touching the his/her preferred symbol. The "yes" response may include: • eye movements, • head nods • arm/hand movements • speech approximations • voice-output switch • pointing to a "yes" symbol
Examples: "What day is it today? Tell me when my pointer gets to the word you want." Point to each choice without saying the choices aloud. "What is the answer to math problem #1?" Point to each choice without saying them aloud.	The student looks at the partner's finger as it moves across the days of the week. The student indicates "yes" when the partner's finger touches "Thursday". The student indicates "yes" as the partner's finger moves across the number line and gets to the number '6".
Pros: • This is an effective method for communication for visual leaners • Choices can be displayed vertically, horizontally, circularly, etc.	**Cons:** • The student must be able to visually scan and locate the desired symbol/word • The student must wait until the communication partner's pointer reaches a preferred choice