



IES Grant #  
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# What is a prompt?

Prompts are things we can do to increase the likelihood that children will respond how we want them to. Prompting helps children complete tasks that might otherwise be too difficult, or contain multiple or complex steps. Supporting children using prompts (and providing positive descriptive feedback) helps them learn to complete tasks on their own!



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## Gesture



**Point in the direction of where you want your child to go or what you want them to do.**

**EXAMPLE:**  
When you want your child to put on their shirt, you can point to their shirt.

## Model



**Show your child how to do what you are asking them to do (this can be verbal or physical)**

**EXAMPLE:**  
When you want your child to ask for help, say "You can say 'help.'" When you want your child to put a toy away, you can put another toy away yourself.

## Gentle Guidance



**Gently use a touch to guide your child to complete the task.**

**EXAMPLE:**  
When you want your child to go to the bathroom, place your hand on his/her back and guide them to the bathroom.

## Full Physical



**Physically assist your child to complete the task.**

**EXAMPLE:**  
When you need your child to wash their hands, place your hands over their hands and physically guide them through the steps.

**less support**



**more support**

**Prompting can be used to support many prevent, teach, or new response strategies. Click [here](#) for more strategies.**

