Teaching Tips: Helpful Hints for One-on-One Situations

1. Assist the student to focus on the adult who is teaching or on the student who is speaking, being careful to not repeat or interpret the other person’s remarks to the student.

2. Make sure the student can see the adult teaching or student speaking. Avoid getting your body in between the student and the other party.

3. Emphasize independence by giving as little assistance as possible. Try to avoid over-talking and, whenever possible, assist the student to participate in a small group rather than doing one-on-one instruction.

4. Whenever possible, move to a less intrusive level of prompting. Add visual supports to replace prompts given by people if at all possible. Remember, overly reinforcing prompted trials results in prompt dependency.

5. Fade adult presence by teaching the student to attend to naturally occurring environmental cues.

6. Systematically empower other persons in the environment by teaching the student to respond to other people and by teaching peers and adults how to interact with the student.

7. Work to show the student that being with you is a good thing, as opposed to time away from you.

8. Give ample opportunities to succeed by making requests that have a high probability of resulting in a correct response with a few more difficult requests embedded (i.e., behavioral momentum).

9. Observe others in the same environment and determine what this student needs to learn to be more independent and more successful.