Video Modeling Produces Success for Student with Autism

What?
Video Modeling is an evidence-based intervention in which educational skills or desired behaviors are learned through viewing a video demonstrating the target skill or behavior. Video Modeling is intended to support a strong evidence-based program for students with autism. There are three types of video modeling:

1. **Basic Video Modeling** - the learner views a video of a peer performing the targeted task or desired behavior.
2. **Video Self Modeling** - the learner views a video of himself performing a skill that he has some ability to do but needs to master.
3. **Point of View Video Modeling** - the learner views the skill or behavior from a video that captures what the learner will see through his own eyes.

Why?
Meeting the educational needs of students with autism has never been crucial. Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability. 10 – 17 percent annually.

(The ABCs of Autism  www.special-learning.com)
Video Modeling is a perfect fit for students with autism because:

- Preference for visual stimuli
- Avoids face to face attention
- Restrictive field of focus
- Strengths in processing visual information
- Video watching is view as a recreation - (Corbett and Abdullah, 2005)

How?
**Action Research** - Exceptional Children Research is quite often single subject.

*Obtain parental permission to video from both the model and the student who is the single subject.*

1. Define the problem -
2. Carefully choose the target skill with your participant in mind.
3. Gather baseline data in vivo (in person)

**STOP and Plan**

1. Determine the type of video modeling based on the target skill and the student’s need.
2. Choose the model for the video. (Remember to obtain parental permission)
3. Write script.
4. Make the video. Keep it short!
5. Edit if necessary.
6. Begin Video Modeling. Limit extraneous variables by showing the video in the same setting and at the same time. Determine how the student will view the video. We use iPads
7. Collect, analyze and interpret data.
8. Monitor progress and trouble shoot if student is not progressing.

**TIPS:**

Trouble Shooting: Is the learner:
- Watching the video enough?
- Attending?
- Needing more prompting?
- Reinforcement in place?
- Is target skill too abstract or difficult

**Fading**

When student is successful with the skill or new behavior, begin fading the video by showing less.

**Generalize** new skill or behavior to other environments.

**Technically Speaking – It's easy!**

Equipment and software:
- Video Recording Device - I use an iPad or my iPhone.
- Software for editing: Windows Movie Maker (PC) or iMovie (Mac)

Remember the videos do not need to be professional. I rarely edit my videos.

**Storing the Videos**

Consider using the app **My VR Spot.** See handout. Upload and share videos using **My VR Spot.**
Disclaimer: Video Modeling is not a stand alone program for students with autism. Video Modeling supports evidence-based programs in place:

- TEACCH Work Systems and Visual Schedules
- ABA strategies
- Verbal Behavior Method
- Concrete and Visual materials – Montessori materials work very well.
- Clutter free learning environment with 3 work stations. (Students rotate every 15 from station to station to receive direct instruction in reading, math, and writing & practical life skills. We use partitions to limit distractions.

I hope you experience the success that I’ve seen in my classroom this year. The Governor’s Teacher Network gave me the incentive for Action Research. Students with autism must overcome many barriers to learning. Specific barriers that I identified as problems were difficulty focusing on the task at hand and the tendency to become prompt dependent. Video Modeling, the intervention I chose to solve the problem of increasing the learning of students with autism:

- Positively impacted student learning
- Made me, the teacher a more reflective practitioner.
- Created the desire for me to share my success with other teachers, parents, and therapists who work with students with autism.
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Resources


Recommended Book

Video Modeling for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders by Sarah Murray and Brenna Noland

Online Module on Video Modeling:

www.autisminternetmodules.org