# Using Practical Strategies to Obtain Critical Mass in Emotional Understanding, Conversation, & Problem Solving

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#### **ABOUT THE PRESENTER**





Kerry Mataya, M.S.Ed., is the Executive Director of Bridgeway Services in Birmingham, Alabama, providing individual and group intervention-based services in the areas of social development, problem-solving, perspective taking, academics, self-awareness, behavior regulation, and executive functioning. She received a Master's in Education with emphasis in Autism and Asperger Syndrome from the University of Kansas under the leadership of Dr. Brenda Smith Myles. Ms. Mataya holds many contracts with school systems for individual, group, and training services. Mataya has co-authored three books, including, Excelling with Autism: Obtaining Critical Mass Using Deliberate Practice, Talk With Me: A Step-by-Step Conversation Framework for Teaching Conversational Balance and Fluency, and Successful Problem-Solving for High Functioning Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. She is currently working on additional projects that systematize learning for students with ASD. Ms. Mataya has presented at numerous conferences and workshops in the US and internationally. She is also involved with Asperger Connection, a small non-profit organization that provides funding to improve the quality of life for high-functioning individuals with ASD. She has two children – an 12 year-old son (6<sup>th</sup> grade) and 8 year-old daughter (2<sup>nd</sup> grade).

#### **LEARNER OBJECTIVES**

After attending this webinar participants will:

- 1. Be able to define the educational meaning of critical mass.
- 2. Learn the steps necessary to obtain critical mass.
- 3. Identify the three-part system for improving emotional understanding.
- 4. Verbalize the three parts of the Conversation Framework needed for a balanced conversation.
- 5. Utilize the components of the Problem Solving Chart and Advanced Problem Solving Chart to explain how to work a student through a problem situation.

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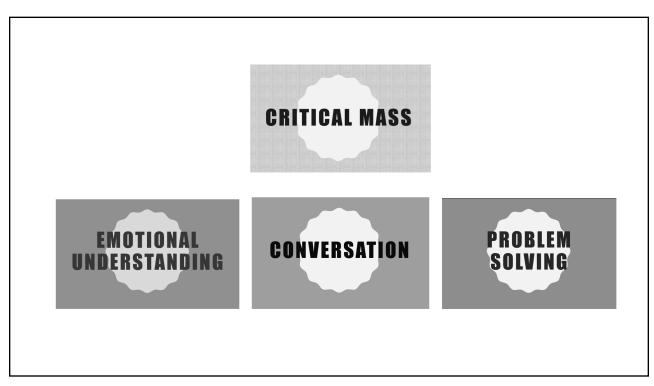
#### IN OTHER WORDS

Understand a Relatively New Concept of Critical Mass

- 1. Be able to define the educational meaning of critical mass.
- 2. Learn the steps necessary to obtain critical mass.

Three Ways to Apply the New Concept of Critical Mass

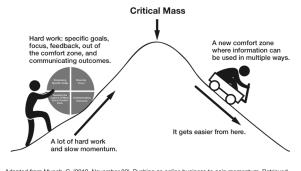
- 1. Identify the three-part system for improving emotional understanding.
- 2. Verbalize the three parts of the Conversation Framework needed for a balanced conversation.
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# CRITICAL MASS

#### **WHAT IS CRITICAL MASS?**

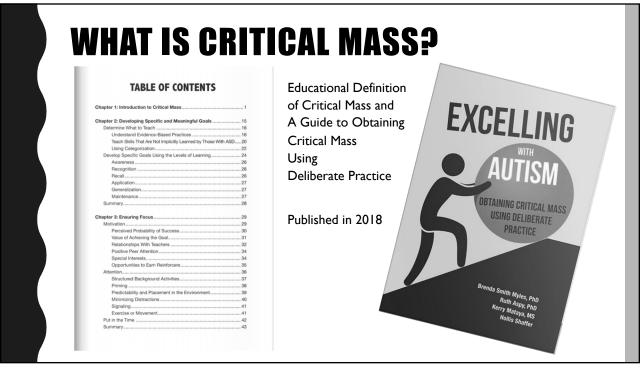
- · Spontaneous generalization
- · After instruction and experiences, the learner can apply the information to new situations
- Gained enough information to be successful in situations, activities, or skills for which instruction has not been provided.
- Rather than obtaining critical mass across a group, Excelling with Autism focuses on attaining critical mass of knowledge and skills in an individual.



Adapted from Munch, C. (2010, November 22). Pushing an online business to gain momentum. Retrieved June 16, 2017 from http://munchweb.com/the-tipping-point.

Excelling with Autism. Myles, Aspy, Mataya, and Shaffer (2018)

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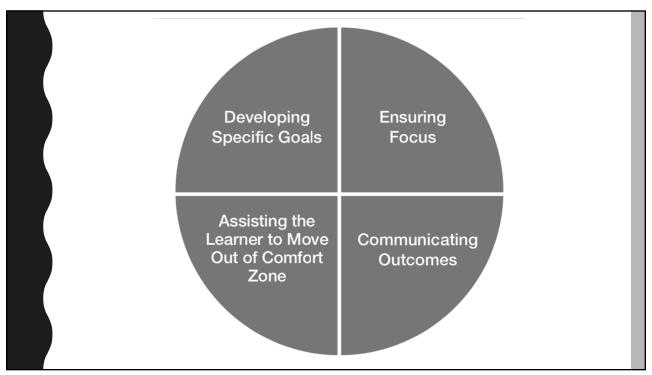


#### WHAT IS DELIBERATE PRACTICE?

Deliberate practice is a specific type of practice that is intentional and systematic. According to Ericsson (2016), there are four components to deliberate practice, each accomplished under the guidance of an expert coach, such as a teacher or mentor.

- 1. Developing specific and meaningful goals
- 2. Ensuring focus
- 3. Communicating outcomes
- 4. Assisting learner to move out of his or her comfort zone

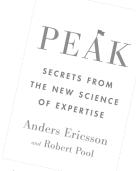
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#### **ABOUT THE RESEARCHER**



Anders Ericsson is a Swedish psychologist and Conradi Eminent Scholar and Professor of Psychology at Florida State University who is internationally recognized as a researcher in the psychological nature of expertise and human performance.



www.findingmastery.net

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#### **ABOUT THE RESEARCHER**



Ericsson studies expert
performance in areas such as
medicine, music, chess, and sports,
focusing exclusively on extended
deliberate practice (e.g., high
concentration practice beyond
one's comfort zone) as a
means of how
expert performers
acquire their superior
performance.

PEAK

SECRETS FROM
THE NEW SCIENCE
OF EXPERTISE

Anders Ericsson
and Robert Pool

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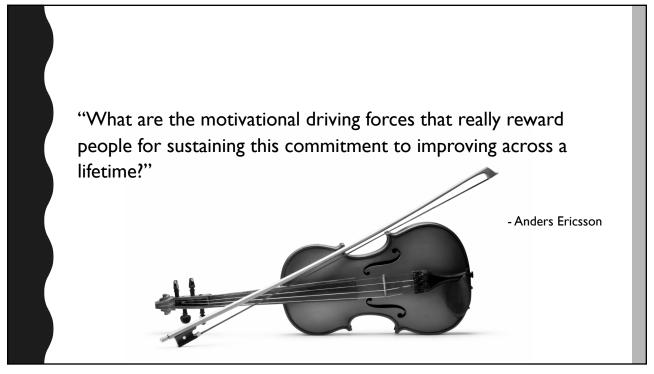
"If you as a parent have more or less just trained your child, that's quite different from preparing your child to be an independent performer who is actually in control of their training so that once they reach an adult level they will be actually able to take over responsibility for their development."

- Anders Ericsson

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"If you just keep doing what you have been doing, you are going to be limited in how much you can actually improve your performance."







"There is a fundamental truth about any sort of practice: If you never push yourself beyond your comfort zone, you will never improve."

- Anders Ericsson, Peak

YES, BUT...

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Let's take another look....

## SUCCESS BASED OFF OF FOUR AREAS OF 'DELIBERATE PRACTICE'

- 1. Developing specific and meaningful goals
- 2. Ensuring focus
- 3. Communicating outcomes
- 4. Assisting learner to move out of his or her comfort zone

HOW CAN WE APPLY THIS INFORMATION TO SOMEONE WITH ASD?

#### **RESPONSES TO CONFLICT**

**Fight** 

- Verbal or physical aggression
- Defensiveness
- Passive aggressiveness

**Flight** 

- Running away
- Avoidance and distractions
- Fear and anxiety

- Freeze Shutting Down
  - Detachment or withdrawal
  - Giving Up



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#### **RESPONSES TO CONFLICT**

**Fight** 

- I can win.
- I am right.

**Flight** 

- I can escape.
- I don't have to be here.

Freeze

- I can't win or escape.
- I feel utterly helpless.

Unofficial Kerry Criteria

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"Learned helplessness is the giving up reaction, the quitting response that follows from the belief that whatever you do doesn't matter."



-Arnold Schwarzenegger

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## FOUR AREAS TO ACHIEVING CRITICAL MASS AND WHAT WORKED FOR US

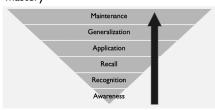
#### I. Developing specific and meaningful goals



- Providing categories
- Working on skills that are not implicitly learned by students with ASD
- Using all levels of learning from awareness to maintenance for mastery

#### 2. Ensuring focus

- Increasing perceived probability of success
- Learning why achieving each goal has value to the student
- Maintaining positive relationships
- Using special interests when possible
- Using priming and pre-teaching
- Pairing external reinforcement with learning until self-motivated



Levels of Learning. Hudson, Colson, & Braxdale (1984)

## FOUR AREAS TO ACHIEVING CRITICAL MASS AND WHAT WORKED FOR US

#### bridgeway

#### 3. Communicating outcomes

- Providing opportunities for immediate and informative feedback through video and audio recording on a variety of skills and interactions
- Providing peer feedback
- Providing opportunities for self-analysis and reflection

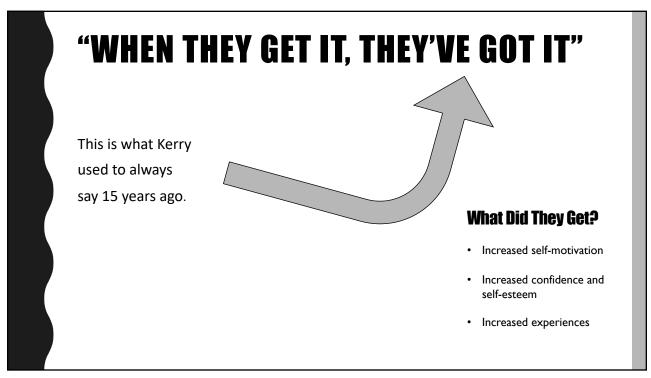
#### 4. Assisting learner to move out of comfort zone

- Progressively using levels of demands to challenge students to the next step
- Matching individual abilities to the group size through individual and small group teaching, when needed
- When ready, providing opportunities to practice with a group or real-life situation

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#### REPEAT PROCESS OVER AND OVER UNTIL...





## ASD + IMPORTANT RESEARCH ON CATEGORIES

- High-functioning individuals with ASD often interpret and form categories differently than others.
- They may tend to pay specific attention to detail rather than to focus on the big picture.
- While attention to detail can be helpful for many life tasks, attending to minute details within a story tends to negatively impact fluent conversation and interaction with others.

#### **ASD + IMPORTANT RESEARCH**

- Bock successfully taught various skills using categorization, including laundry sorting, stocking shelves in a grocery store, noun and verb endings, and social interaction skills (1994, 1999, 2001, 2007).
- Focused on teaching categories, Bock (1994, 1999) found that children with ASD achieved spontaneous generalization and maintenance through interventions using categorical thinking.

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#### **RESEARCH BY MARJORIE A. BOCK**

#### Sorting Laundry:

Categorization Strategy Application to an Authentic Learning Activity by Children with Autism

Marjorie A. Bock



#### Untrained Generalization and Maintenance

The current study replicates generalization and maintenance data reported in an

earlier study (Bock, 1994). Scott, Beth, Homever, participants in this study did not receive strategy training across a set of natural settings where they would sort laundry or across the full range of dirty laundry, as in general case instruction (Horner & Albin, 1988). Consequently, the potential correlation between learning strategy generalization and mainte-

earlier study (Bock, 1994). Scott, Beth, Hendrick, and Julian demonstrated spontaneous skill generalization and maintenance. Generality occurred concurrent with strategy acquisition and continued after the study. Maintenance was demonstrated 4 months after the study.

The significance of these findings is underscored by the limited skill transfer typically shown by children with autism (Simpson & Regan, 1986). Participants in this study did receive learning strategy training across a range of stimuli using direct instruction and an easy-to-hard training sequence, as in general case instruction (Horner & Albin, 1988). However, participants in this study did not receive strategy training across a set of natural settings where they would sort laundry or across the full range of dirty laundry, as in general case instruction (Horner & Albin, 1988). Consequently, the potential correlation between learning strategy generalization and maintenance and general case instruction remains unclear and warrants further research.

#### **RESEARCH BY MARJORIE A. BOCK**

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# THE KEY TO BRIDGEWAY'S SUCCESS: DEFINING the CATEGORIES

#### THINKING IN CATEGORIES

Our brain typically creates categories to make sense of what we see.

#### **CATEGORIES:**

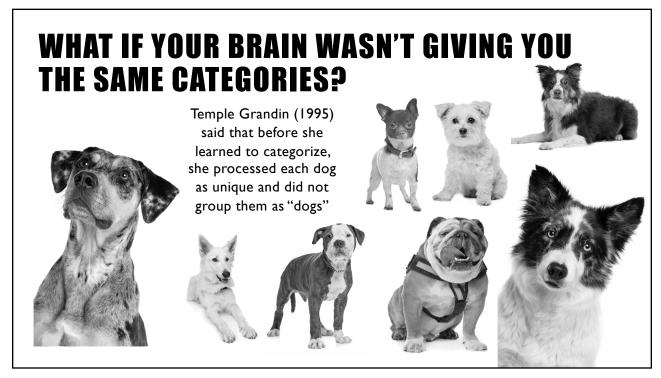
- Teacher, student
- · Adult, children
- Boys, girls
- · On task, off task
- · Working, not working
- · Learning, confused
- Smiling, not smiling
- Caucasian, African American

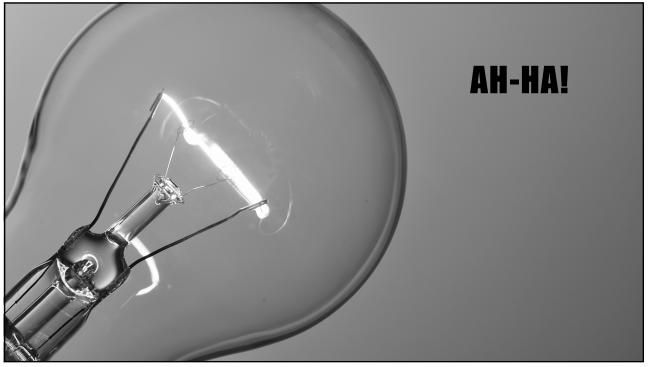


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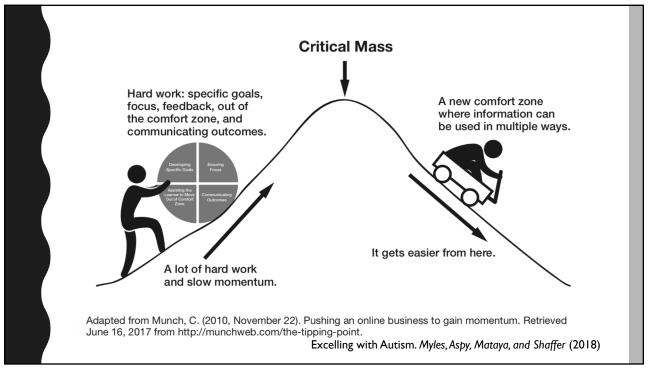


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40% of young adults with ASD never worked for pay into their early twenties compared to 99% of their typically developing peers. Rates of independent living are also abysmal – 81% live with family members or caregivers. And this is consistent across the spectrum – from those who have a classic presentation of ASD to those who have average-to-above-average IQs (Roux, Shattuck, Rast, Rava, & Anderson, 2015).

Excelling with Autism. Myles, Aspy, Mataya, and Shaffer (2018)

## DIFFICULTY DEVELOPING CRITICAL MASS IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS

#### Individuals with ASD

- Have reduced practice opportunities for interaction as compared to NT peers.
- Have few specific goals that address all the levels of learning (awareness, recognition, recall, application, generalization, maintenance).
- Have difficulty maintaining focus, including motivation and attention.

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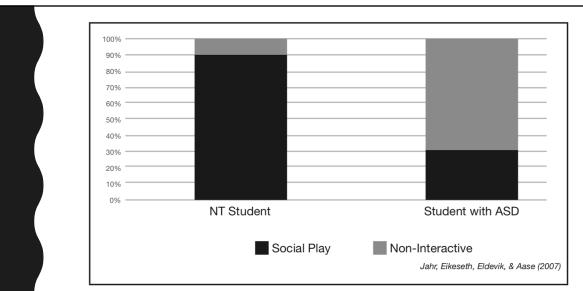
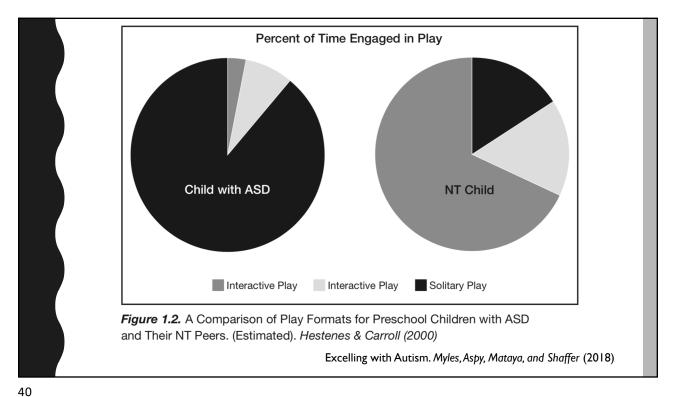
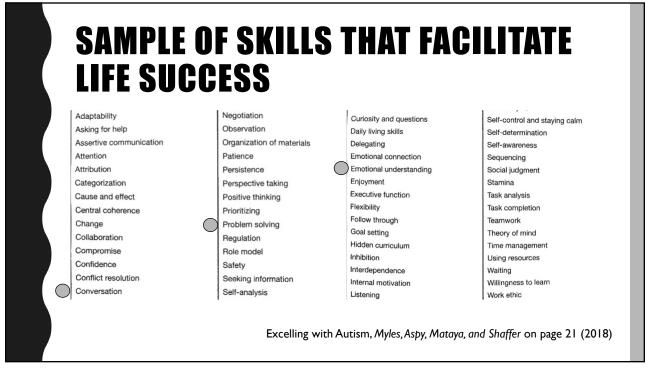


Figure 1.1. Percent of Time Preschool Students Engaged With Others During a One-Hour Playtime. Jahr, Eikeseth, Eldevik, & Aase (2007)

Excelling with Autism. Myles, Aspy, Mataya, and Shaffer (2018)

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## DEVELOPING CRITICAL MASS TIONAL CONVERSATION PROBLEM

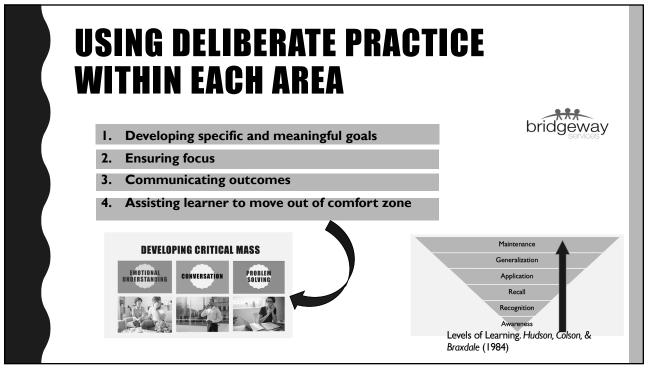








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#### **EMBEDDED SKILL: "GIVE ME THREE..."**

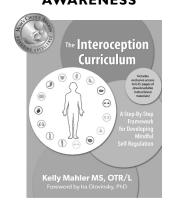
- I will offer "Give Me Three" ideas during all topic areas all can be incorporated into your teaching to help your child obtain critical mass.
- · "Give Me Three" promotes cognitive flexibility, which is an important life skill.
- Even though one response is good, three demonstrates a good understanding of what is being discussed.
- · Here's what happens at Bridgeway:
  - The student may have no issues or hesitation in providing the first response.
     It's often a learned response. If someone is new to a skill or services, providing a first response may be difficult.
  - The student takes longer to give response two. Sometimes the response is acceptable.
     Sometimes it's "out there" and shows a lack of understanding of the topic.
  - Many times, the student cannot think of a third response no matter how much time has been provided.

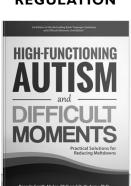


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## EMOTIONAL UNDERSTANDING









#### **EMOTIONAL UNDERSTANDING**

For this presentation:

Recognize varying emotions in a variety of people with different age, gender, and skin

tone in pictures and video clips.

**EMOTIONAL RECOGNITION** 

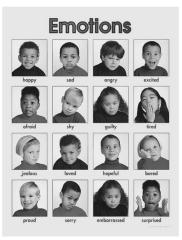


Advanced Emotion Words

Afraid	Flirtatious	Sad
Angry	Frustrated	Sarcastic
Annoyed	Guilty	Scared
Anxious	Нарру	Shocked (bad)
Ashamed	Hesitant	Shocked (good)
Awkward	Hopeful	Shy
Bashful	Hopeless	Silly
Betrayed	Hurt	Skeptical
Bored	Hyper	Smug
Brave	Impatient	Sneaky
Calm	Interested	Sorry
Caring	Irritated	Stressed
Concerned	Jealous	Surprised (bad)
Confident	Lonely	Surprised (good)
Confused	Loved	Suspicious
Content	Mischievous	Tense
Defensive	Nervous	Tired
Disappointed	Overwhelmed	Uncomfortable
Disbelief	Pain	Understanding
Disgusted	Panicked	Unimpressed
Doubt	Patient	Uninterested
Embarrassed	Peace	Unloved
Excited	Proud	Unsure
Excluded	Relaxed	Upset
Exhausted	Remorseful	Worried

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## LOOKS LIKE CATEGORIES, BUT SOME INDIVIDUALS WITH ASD GET STUCK





https://flourishnthrive.wordpress.com/2012/05/29/feelings-chart-and-feelings-faces/

- Not always a true depiction of what this emotion looks like in a natural setting
  - Do not always yawn when tired
  - Do not always put hands by face when surprised
- Students with ASD would learn one representation of that emotion and exclude other pictures of the same emotion presented differently
- It's important to learn variations that could make up each of these emotions to get a full understanding of each emotional category.

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Many times, I see well-intended teachers and therapists giving the answers rather than teaching a process for students to figure it out on their own.

Resources can even lead a child to the right answer by the way the questions are asked on the back of a picture card.

## FOUR AREAS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MASS USING DELIBERATE PRACTICE

- I. Developing specific and meaningful goals
- 2. Ensuring focus
- 3. Communicating outcomes
- 4. Assisting learner to move out of comfort zone

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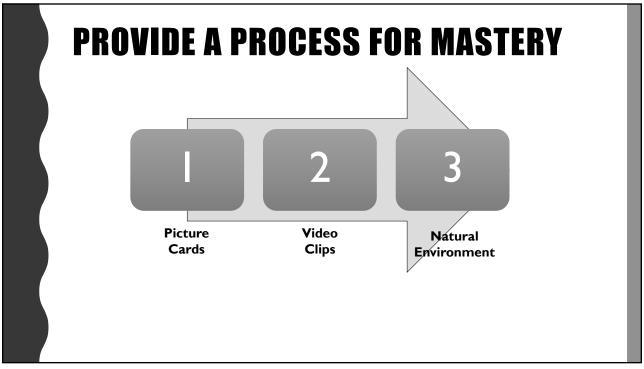
## DEVELOP SPECIFIC AND MEANINGFUL GOALS

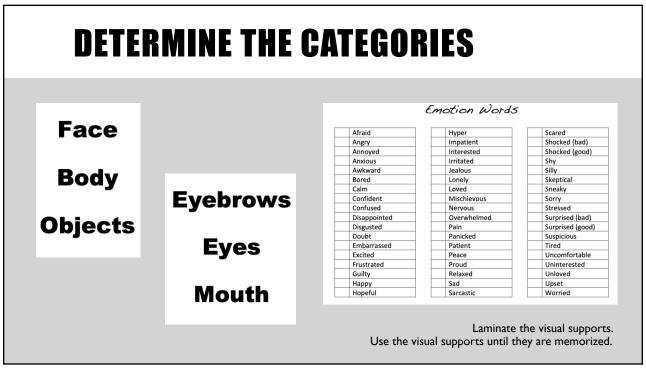
- Student will label the three categories to look at in a situation to determine meaning including (1) face, (2) body, and (3) objects.
- Using pictures (i.e. emotion cards, online pictures, emotion chart, photographs), student will identify basic emotions of others (i.e. happy, sad, mad) and will justify three reasons why the person may feel that way using ideas relevant to the picture.
- Using pictures (i.e. emotion cards, online pictures, emotion chart, photographs), student will identify subtle emotions of others (i.e. skeptical, disappointed, confused) and will justify three reasons why the person may feel that way using ideas relevant to the picture.

## DEVELOP SPECIFIC AND MEANINGFUL GOALS

- Student will correctly label 10 unfamiliar emotions.
- Using short video clips of familiar peers and adults, student will identify what's happening in the clip with attention to basic and subtle emotions.
- Using video clips, student will identify basic emotions of others (e.g. happy, sad, mad) and will justify three reasons why the person may feel that way using ideas relevant to the picture.
- Using video clips, student will identify subtle emotions of others (e.g. skeptical, disappointed, confused) and will justify three reasons why the person may feel that way using ideas relevant to the picture.

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	Emotion Words			Adva	inced Emotion W	ords
Afraid	Hyper	Scared	Г	Afraid	Flirtatious	Sad
Angry	Impatient	Shocked (bad)	-	Angry	Frustrated	Sarcastic
Annoyed	Interested	Shocked (good)		Annoved	Guilty	Scared
Anxious	Irritated	Shy		Anxious	Нарру	Shocked (bad)
Awkward	Jealous	Silly		Ashamed	Hesitant	Shocked (good)
Bored	Lonely	Skeptical	F	Awkward	Hopeful	Shy
Calm	Loved	Sneaky		Bashful	Hopeless	Silly
Confident	Mischievous	Sorry	-	Betrayed	Hurt	Skeptical
Confused	Nervous	Stressed		Bored	Hyper	Smug
Disappointed	Overwhelmed	Surprised (bad)	-	Brave	Impatient	Sneaky
Disgusted	Pain	Surprised (good)		Calm	Interested	Sorry
Doubt	Panicked	Suspicious	-	Caring	Irritated	Stressed
Embarrassed	Patient	Tired	-	Concerned	Jealous	Surprised (bad)
Excited	Peace	Uncomfortable	<b>⊢</b>	Confident	Lonely	Surprised (good)
Frustrated	Proud	Uninterested		Confused	Loved	Suspicious
Guilty	Relaxed	Unloved	-	Content	Mischievous	Tense
Happy	Sad	Upset	-	Defensive	Nervous	Tired
Hopeful	Sarcastic	Worried	-	Disappointed	Overwhelmed	Uncomfortable
nopelul	Sarcastic	womed	-	Disappointed	Pain	Understanding
			H	Disgusted	Panicked	Unimpressed
			-	Doubt	Patient	Uninterested
			-	Embarrassed	Peace	Unloved
			-	Excited	Proud	Unsure
			-	Excluded	Relaxed	Upset
			-	Excluded	Remorseful	Worried
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## FOUR AREAS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MASS USING DELIBERATE PRACTICE

- 1. Developing specific and meaningful goals
- 2. Ensuring focus
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- 4. Assisting learner to move out of comfort zone

#### **ENSURING FOCUS**

- Keep video clips short and manageable (5-180 seconds)
- Use visual supports until categories are mastered
- Create still pictures when needed from the video so it is easier to break down the face, body, and objects when needed

Face

Body

**Objects** 

Emotion Words

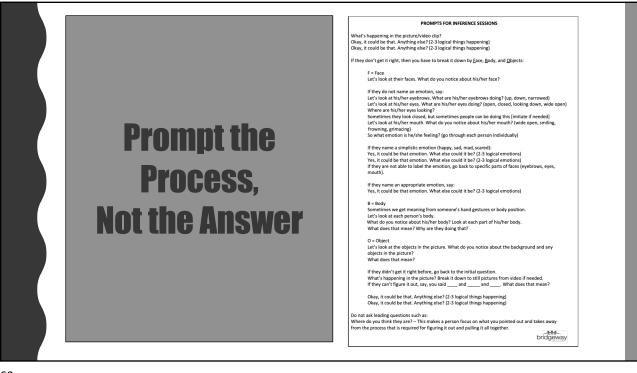
Afraid	Hyper
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Confused	Nervous
Disappointed	Overwh
Disgusted	Pain
Doubt	Panicke
Embarrassed	Patient
Excited	Peace
Frustrated	Proud
Guilty	Relaxed
Happy	Sad
Honoful	Carcartie

Scared [bad]
Shocked [bad]
Shocked [soot]
Shocked [

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#### **ENSURING FOCUS**

- Provide lots of encouragement (what the student would find encouraging)
- Be supportive (e.g. "We can go back and watch this as many times as you need to")
- Pause the video as much as necessary
- Take as much time as needed, possibility coming back to it next session/week





## FOUR AREAS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MASS USING DELIBERATE PRACTICE

- 1. Developing specific and meaningful goals
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#### **COMMUNICATING OUTCOMES**

- Communicate expectations ("I'm going to ask you to give me 3 reasons why they might be \_\_\_[emotion]")
- Use feedback from the emotion files ("Let's look at other pictures of scared to see if you think they look similar")

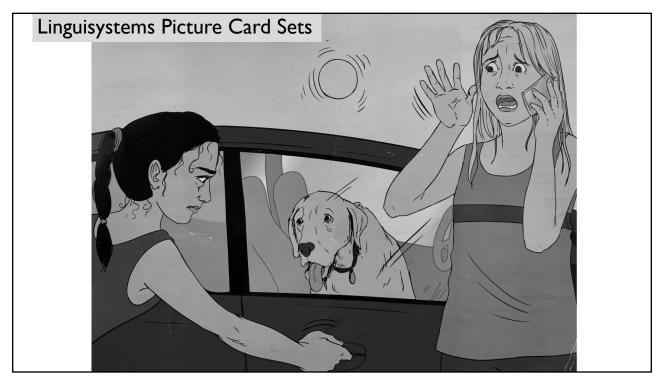
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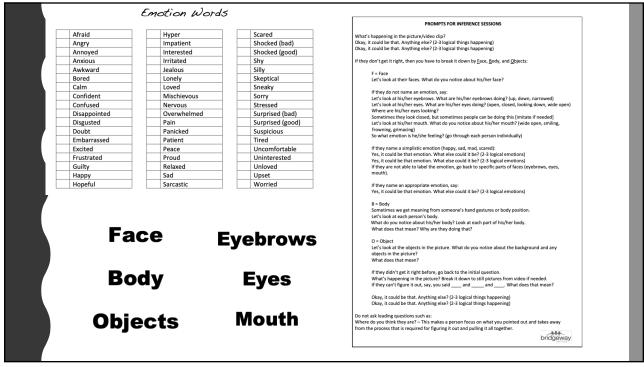
- 1. Developing specific and meaningful goals
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#### **ASSISTING OUT OF COMFORT ZONE**

- Pick an age appropriate and realistic picture card or video clip
- Start using video clips
- Start using more subtle emotions when ready





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Kerry Mataya, M.S. Ed.





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## EMBEDDED SKILL: "GIVE ME THREE..."

- Give me three emotions it could be.
- Give me three reasons he/she might be feeling that emotion.



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# CONVERSATION

## WHAT YOU <u>SEE</u> + WHAT YOU <u>HEAR</u>

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Movie Clip: The Pursuit of Happyness, 2006

## FOUR AREAS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MASS USING DELIBERATE PRACTICE

- I. Developing specific and meaningful goals
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# DEVELOP SPECIFIC AND MEANINGFUL GOALS

- Student will identify the subject of a conversation (general and specific).
- Student will identify the weight or seriousness of what is being discussed (light, medium, and heavy or joking/serious).
- Student will identify the inferred meaning of the conversation.
- Student will ask reciprocal questions (e.g. how are you, what about you).
- Student will ask questions to start a conversation.
- Student will ask at least two follow up questions on topic.

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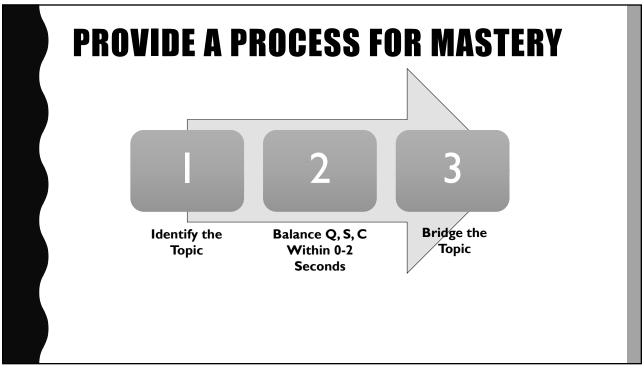
# DEVELOP SPECIFIC AND MEANINGFUL GOALS

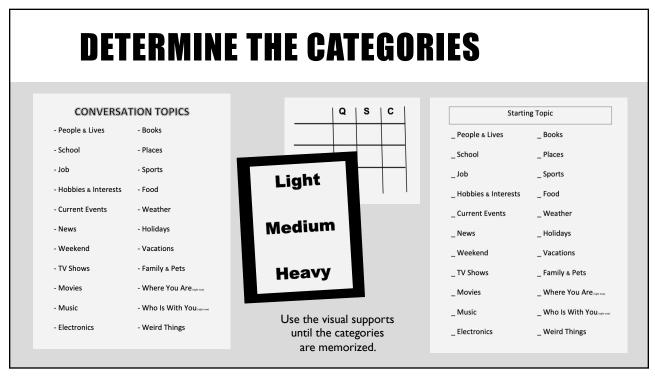
- Student will tell an informative story using at least 5 sentences.
- Student will tell a story related to a specific emotion with at least 5 sentences.
- Student will make a comment to show interest.
- Student will engage in a balanced conversation using questions, stories and comments in a structured setting.
- Student will engage in a balanced conversation using questions, stories and comments with a peer.

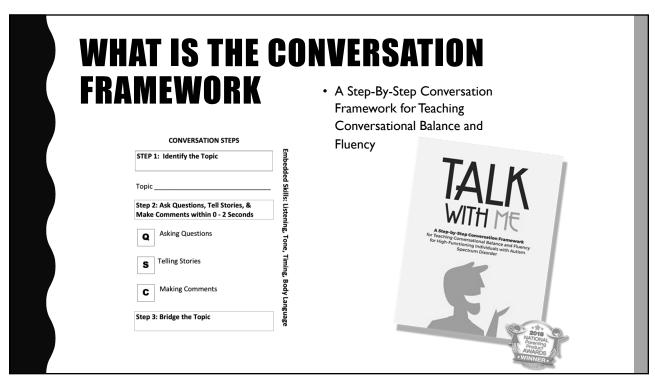
# DEVELOP SPECIFIC AND MEANINGFUL GOALS

- Student will engage in a balanced conversation using questions, stories and comments with medium-sized group (3-5 students).
- Student will label the categories (from Conversation Topics list) that could be related to the current topic.
- Student will say, "Speaking of..." (or "That reminds me of...") when bridging the topic to a new and related topic.
- Student will bridge the topic to a new and related topic within 0-2 seconds.
- There are many options for goals related to the Conversation Framework considering embedded skills (tone, timing, listening) and group placement, size, and other considerations.

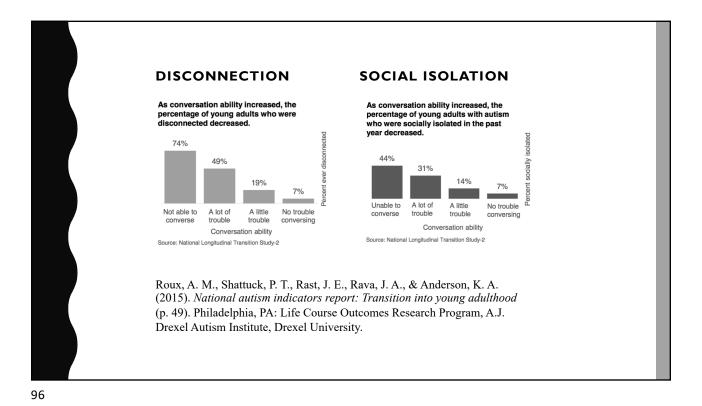
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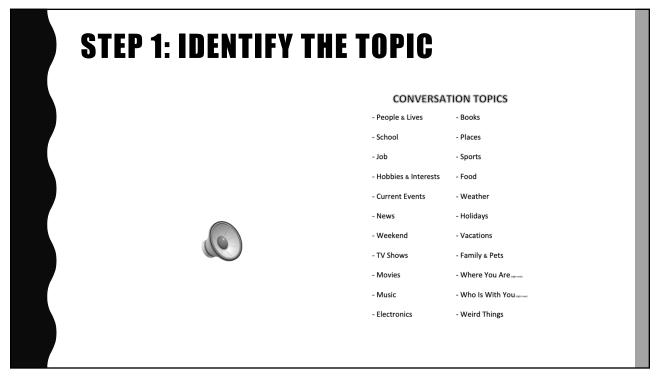


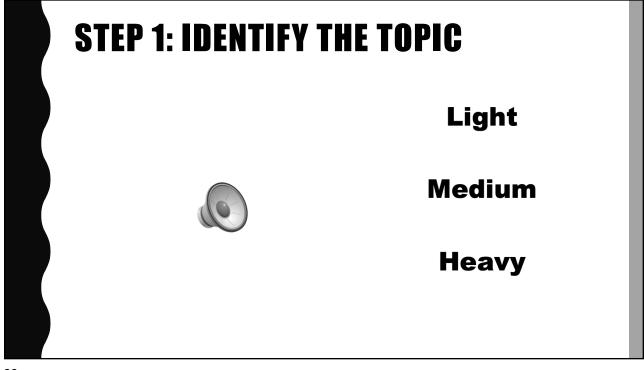


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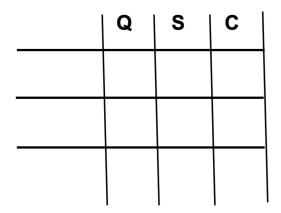


**EMPLOYMENT** As conversation ability increased, so did the percentage of young adults who ever had a job during their early 20s. 45% 15% No trouble A little converse trouble trouble conversing Conversation ability Source: National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 Roux, A. M., Shattuck, P. T., Rast, J. E., Rava, J. A., & Anderson, K. A. (2015). National autism indicators report: Transition into young adulthood (p. 49). Philadelphia, PA: Life Course Outcomes Research Program, A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel University.





# STEP 2: BALANCE THE CONVERSATION WITH Q, S, C WITHIN 0-2 SECONDS



100

# STEP 2: BALANCE THE CONVERSATION WITH Q, S, C WITHIN 0-2 SECONDS

#### Unbalanced

	Asking Questions	Telling Stories	Making Comments
Person 1	-	-	III
Person 2	-	ин II	-
Person 3	-	-	I
Person 4	IIII	ı	-

#### Balanced

	Asking Questions	Telling Stories	Making Comments			
Person 1	II	II	III			
Person 2	IIII	I	III			
Person 3	III	III	III			
Person 4	III	II	III			

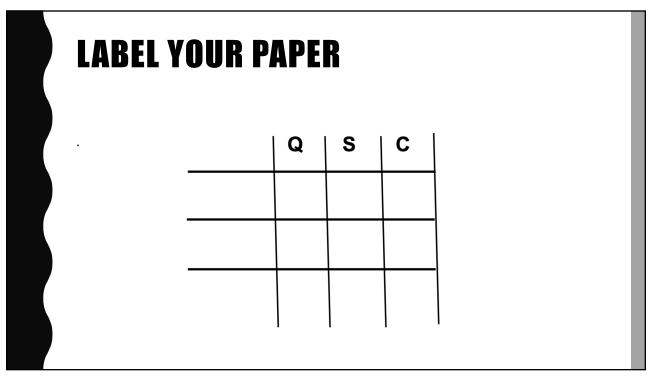
#### Unbalanced

	Asking Questions	Telling Stories	Making Comments
Person 1	-	III	-
Person 2	-	-	I
Person 3	III	IIII	HT I
Person 4	II	-	भा भा
Person 5	IIII	-	-
Person 6	-	-	भ्या ॥
Person 7	I	II	III
Person 8	UH IIII	ш ни	HTÍ HTÍ

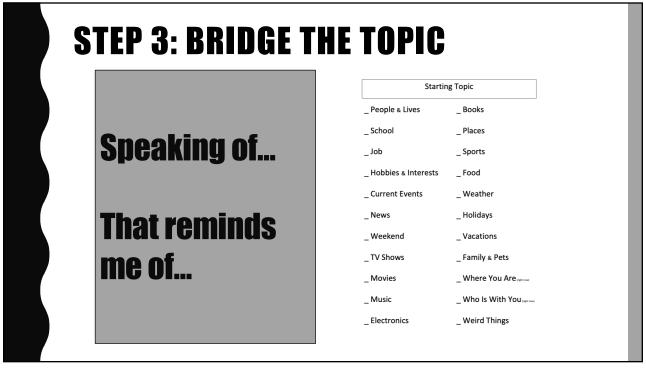
#### Balanced

	Asking Questions		Making Comments				
Person 1	IIII	ı	HTI				
Person 2	II	1	IIIII				
Person 3	ı	II	IIII				
Person 4	II	1	нт				
Person 5	III	1	IIII				
Person 6	II	П	нт				
Person 7	II	0	IIII				
Person 8	II	ı	IIII				

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QUESTION STARTERS		QUESTIONS
What did you? What? Did you? Have you?	Why?  I  One time	
	Cool. Me too.	That's fun. I'm sorry to hear that.



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## FOUR AREAS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MASS USING DELIBERATE PRACTICE

- 1. Developing specific and meaningful goals
- 2. Ensuring focus
- 3. Communicating outcomes
- 4. Assisting learner to move out of comfort zone

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## **ENSURING FOCUS**

- Use age-appropriate audio clips to replicate a group conversation when needed
- Keep audio clips short and manageable (5-45 seconds)
- Pause the audio clip as much as necessary
- Pause the conversation for check-ins a minimum of every 5 minutes
- Use visual supports until categories are mastered
- Provide lots of encouragement (what the student would find encouraging)
- Be supportive (e.g. "You'll get it")
- Take as much time as needed, possibility coming back to it next session/week

#### **INCREASING MOTIVATION**

Say:

"Conversation is only asking questions, telling stories, and making comments."

"You have to do one of those three things to be in the conversation."

"I'll help you get good at all of those parts of conversation."

"Being good at all of those parts of conversation will help you be able to talk to anyone anywhere."

"We'll just work on it until you get it."

"I'll teach you how to listen for a pause to jump in."

"We won't move on to the next step until you've mastered the first step."

"Practicing will help you to be more comfortable."

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# Prompt the Process, Not the Answer



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## FOUR AREAS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MASS USING DELIBERATE PRACTICE

- 1. Developing specific and meaningful goals
- 2. Ensuring focus
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## **COMMUNICATING OUTCOMES**

- Communicate expectations ("I'm going to ask you to give me at least 3 follow up questions that you could ask")
- Track hesitation time beginning at the pause after the leading question, story, or comment
- Communicate progress with student regarding his or her hesitation time
- Listen back to audio recording of helpful parts of the conversation
- Receive peer feedback and support toward goals

## **EXAMPLES OF DATA COLLECTION**

 This type of data collection can double as immediate feedback and long-term data on specific goals.

Q	S	С

Unbalance

	Asking Questions	Telling Stories	Making Comments
Person 1	-	III	
Person 2	-		I
Person 3	III	IIII	HT I
Person 4	ll ll		भा भा
Person 5	III		
Person 6	-		MI II
Person 7	1	II	III
Person 8	UH IIII	III HU	HU HU

Balanced

	Asking Questions	Telling Stories	Making Comments				
Person 1	IIII	I I	HTI				
Person 2	II	I	IIIII				
Person 3	I	II	IIII				
Person 4	ll ll	ı	HT				
Person 5	III	ı	IIII				
Person 6	П	II	HT				
Person 7	ll ll	0	IIII				
Person 8	ll ll	I	IIII				

Adapted from Talk with Me: A Step-By-Step Conversation Framework for Teaching Conversational Balance and Fluency, Mataya, Apsy, and Shaffer

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## FOUR AREAS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MASS USING DELIBERATE PRACTICE

- 1. Developing specific and meaningful goals
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## **ASSISTING OUT OF COMFORT ZONE**

- Pick an age appropriate conversation to join.
- If student is not ready for a conversation with peers, use audio clips to replicate the pace of a conversation
- Increase goals and time expectations to get closer and closer to the overall 0-2 second goal for step 2 of the Conversation Framework
- Have student ask a question (initiate) in a structured setting
- Have student ask a question in an unfamiliar setting
- Have student stand up while having a conversation
- Have student balance conversation within 0-2 seconds with background noise

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## **ASSISTING OUT OF COMFORT ZONE**

- Add a new person to the structured conversation setting
- Go from group conversation to 1:1 conversation
- Go to smaller group to larger group (timing can be more difficult)



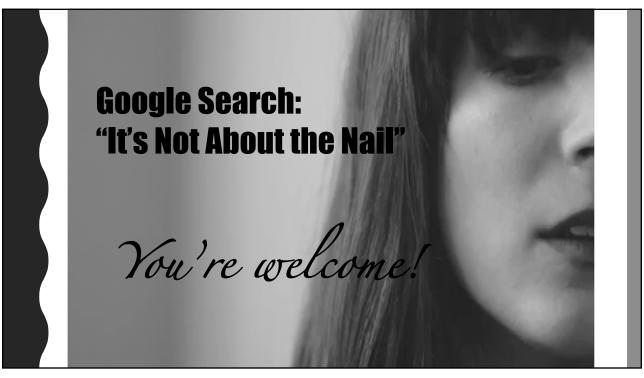
#### **EMBEDDED SKILL: "GIVE ME THREE..."**

- Give me three topics from the Conversation Topics list.
- Give me three topics you could talk about with him/her.
- Give me three follow up questions on topic within 0-2 seconds (each).
- Give me three different ways to bridge the topic to a new and related topic.



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# PROBLEM SOLVING



## FOUR AREAS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MASS USING DELIBERATE PRACTICE

- I. Developing specific and meaningful goals
- 2. Ensuring focus
- 3. Communicating outcomes
- 4. Assisting learner to move out of comfort zone

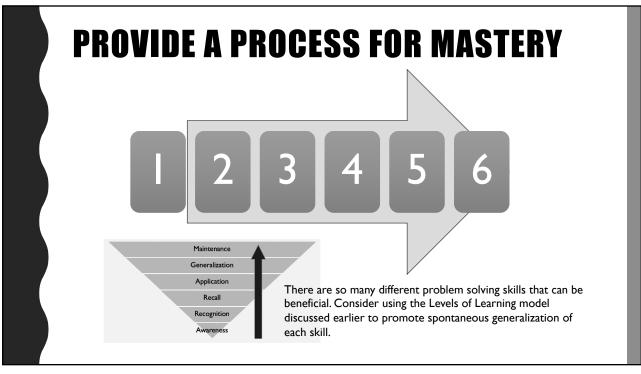
# DEVELOP SPECIFIC AND MEANINGFUL GOALS

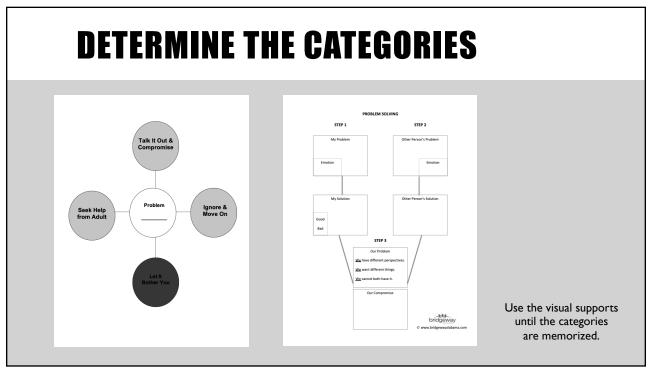
 Refer to Checklist of Problem Solving Goals for Individuals with HF-ASD for a fairly comprehensive list of goalsetting ideas Checklist of Problem Solving Goals for Individuals with HF-ASD By: Kerry Mataya, M.S.Ed. (2016)

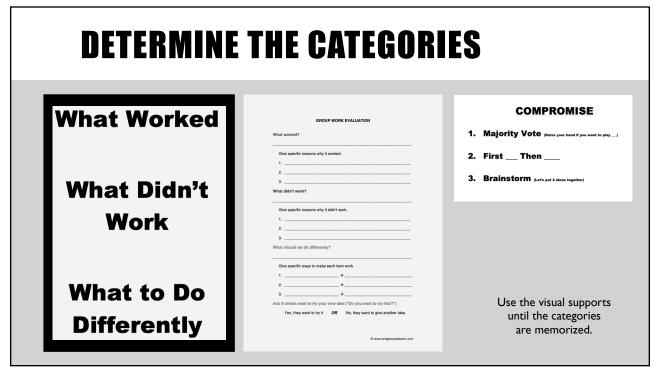
#### Biological - Self Award

- ☐ Student will be able to identify his/her own basic feelings and emotions (e.g. happy, sad, mad) with and without a visual support.
- ☐ Student will be able to recognize his/her own biological needs (e.g. need for a hug, need for attention, need for sleep, need for a break).
- ☐ Using a visual support (e.g. 5 point scale, color scale), student will be able to identify his/her own feelings during and after problem situations.
- ☐ Student will be able to recognize his/her own warning signs before stronger emotions emerge (e.g. feelings of frustration before feelings of anger; feelings of embarrassed before anger).
- ☐ Student will be able to identify his/her own subtle feelings and emotions (e.g. embarrassed, lonely, annoyed) with and without a visual support.
- ☐ Student will be able to feel physical features related to emotional responses (e.g. elevated heart beat, stomach pain, stomach in knots, sweating, fidgeting, arms crossed, etc.).
- ☐ Student will be able to differentiate between different internal sensations related to his/her interoceptive sense (e.g. hungry vs. nervous; tired vs. irritable; hungry vs. sick, etc.).

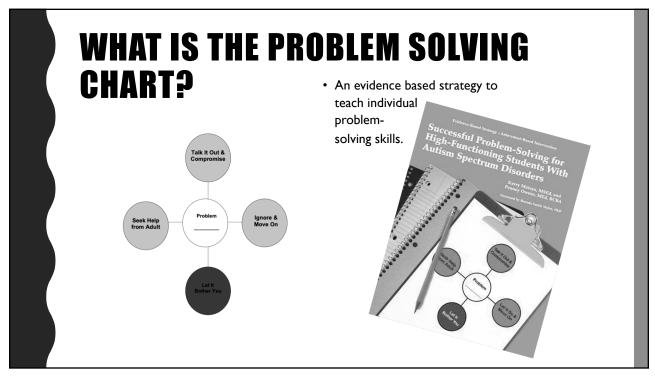
121



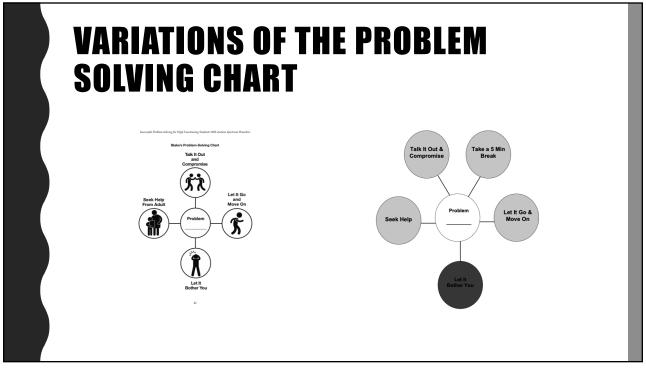




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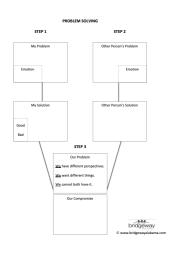


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# WHAT IS THE ADVANCED PROBLEM SOLVING CHART?



- An evidence based strategy to teach problem-solving skills with consideration for the other person's perspective as well as your own.
- Many students with HF-ASD have difficulty correctly identifying the other person's problem.
- Easy to make many copies for a binder, which can double as a teaching opportunity and data collection.
- Developed and used with hundreds of Bridgeway students since 2014.

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# WHAT IS FLEXIBLE=WILLING TO CHANGE?

FLEXIBLE = WILLING TO CHANGE

- This is one of the easiest ways to help a student discern whether or not he was flexible in a situation.
- This concept lends itself to the following category possibilities:
  - Flexible vs. not flexible
  - Yes (I was flexible) vs. no (I was not flexible)
- This can be tied to external reinforcement, but often becomes internally motivating once the skill is learned.

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## WHAT IS COMPROMISE?

#### **COMPROMISE**

- 1. Majority Vote (Raise your hand if you want to play \_\_)
- 2. First \_\_\_ Then \_\_\_
- 3. Brainstorm (Let's put 2 ideas together)

- Although there are many ways to compromise, this visual support provides three ways to compromise that would be appropriate in preschool and adult problem situations.
- Although rock, paper, and scissors and flipping a coin are also ways to compromise, they are generally not preferred in a professional meeting.
- These categories provide a way to troubleshoot issues when the group cannot agree or the first strategy of majority vote does not work.
- Make sure to teach not to lead a majority vote with only two people.

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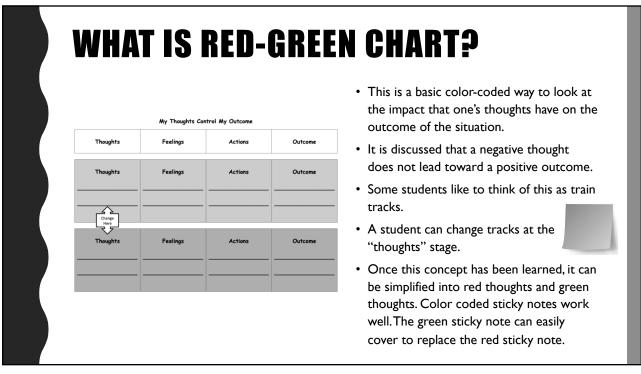
## WHAT IS GROUP WORK EVALUATION?



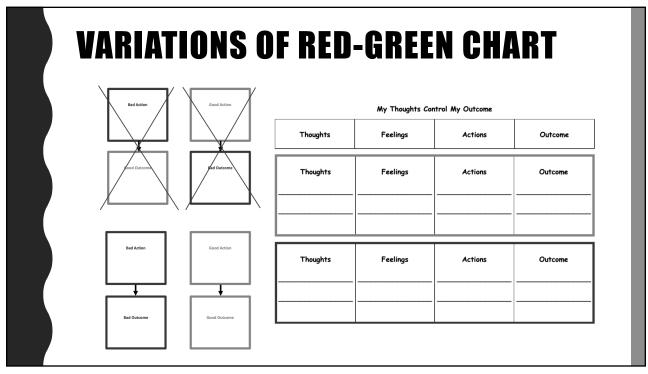
- This has been a necessary tool for Bridgeway clients to successful lead selfreflection.
- It prevents individuals and groups from repeating the same error over and over.
- This process requires the group to stop and evaluate what is working and not working, so they can have a better idea of what needs to be done differently to get a better outcome next time.
- Handwriting is not necessary. The most important thing is the process of thinking and discussing each of the categories.

# \*\*This is a backwards way to do a "First \_\_\_ Then \_\_" starting with what the student wants to happen. \*\*If a student wants to stay in class, that should be written in the box on the bottom (I want to). The behavior or action that is necessary to stay in class should be written in the top box. \*\*This hasn't been used for a majority of Bridgeway students, but it has been really helpful for some that need specific help with understanding cause and effect.

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## FOUR AREAS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MASS USING DELIBERATE PRACTICE

- 1. Developing specific and meaningful goals
- 2. Ensuring focus
- 3. Communicating outcomes
- 4. Assisting learner to move out of comfort zone

## **ENSURING FOCUS**

- Get student "buy-in" on his or her goal
- Decide on one main problem solving goal at a time
- Use visual supports until categories are mastered
- Provide lots of encouragement (what the student would find encouraging)
- Be supportive (e.g. "You'll get it")
- Take as much time as needed, possibility coming back to it next session/week

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## **INCREASING MOTIVATION**

Steps for getting the student's buy-in to work on something include:

- 1) Student has to agree that what he/she is doing is a problem.
- ② Student has to understand why it is a problem.
- 3 Student has to have *opportunities* to practice replacement skills and experience success.



#### WHAT IS SCRIPTING?

- Scripting can be an effective way to ensure focus.
- Reinforcement can be tied to any of the phrases.
- Hundreds of Bridgeway students, during and after school, use scripting to increase effectiveness with problem solving and group interaction skills with others.

Oh Well, No Big Deal I'll try it.

#### WHAT IS SCRIPTING?

- Teambuilding games can provide a great opportunity to practice these concepts.
- At times, it is necessary to teach the hidden categories (try it vs. not try it; no big deal vs. huge deal).
- Use the visual support until the skill has been learned.



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## FOUR AREAS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL MASS USING DELIBERATE PRACTICE

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#### **COMMUNICATING OUTCOMES**

- Communicate expectations ("We'll go back and discuss this afterwards to see how it went")
- Use data collection to track strategies used and effectiveness
- Use picture and video feedback on goals
- Receive peer feedback and support toward goals

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## **EXAMPLES OF DATA COLLECTION**

Problem-Solving Observation - Pretest Person Completing Form: Laure Guvot Role: Teacher Directions: Place an "X" in the most appropriate box based on independent use of the strategies. Always Sometimes Rarely Never Seek Help from Adult Talk It Out and Compromise Let It Go and Move On Let It Bother You

Student Name: \_ Person Completing Form: Directions: Indicate (by circling the appropriate letter) for the first three problem-solving steps whether it was completed with a prompt (P) or independently (I). Then rate each for effectiveness: excellent (E), good (G), fair (P), or poor (P). Finally, indicate the duration of Let It Bother You if this strategy was used.

**Problem-Solving: Effectiveness** 

Strategy Used	Data Collection by Date								
Date	1/4/13	1/4/13	1/7/13	/ /	/ /	/ /			
Location (list)	playground	hallway	playground						
Seek Help From Adult	×Ι	ЖI	РХ	PΙ	PΙ	PΙ			
Effectiveness	EĶ∏FP	<b>⋉</b> GFP	¥GFP	EGFP	EGFP	EGFP			
Talk It Out and Compromise	K I	РΧ	РХ	PΙ	PΙ	PΙ			
Effectiveness	EG <b>X</b> P	EG∦P	E <b>X</b> FP	EGFP	EGFP	EGFP			
Let It Go and Move On	РΧ	K I	РХ	PΙ	PΙ	PΙ			
Effectiveness	EXFP	<b>K</b> GFP	EĶ∏FP	EGFP	EGFP	EGFP			
Let It Bother You Duration in Minutes	4 min. 15 sec.	2 min.	25 sec.						

Examples from Successful Problem Solving from High Functioning Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Mataya and Owens

## **VERY DETAILED DATA COLLECTION**

Solving Client - Aggressive outbursts school; Below average IQ

#### Session: 11/29/11

Session: 11/29/11 We started questions from the HELP for Language book in category of "What Could You Do..." questions on page 15. You can see before that she was abl answer a basic answer correctly on some, but others she couldn't work to a correct response. I will continue data on this area similar to the last question

She worked very hard and kept trying!

What could you do if you wrapped two Christmas girts, but forgot what each present contained before you gave them to your friends? Student: "I'd look at the warning label" Kerry: "What is the problem?" Kerry: "What is the problem?" Student: "I'd find out what it contains?" Kerry: How? Student: "I'd find 'when the contains to the contains th

Student: I don't know Kerry: How could you find out what it contains? Student: wrapped fragile present. Kerry: Did it say anything about fragile? Student: "I could try and remember" Kerry: what if you can't remember? Student: I don't know then

#### What could you do if you need to pound a nail but you have no hammer.

Student: I'd probably use a drill for? 
Kerry: What would you use a drill for? 
Student: To screw in the nail 
Kerry: Have you seen a nail? Can you screw a nail in or do you need to pound it? 
Student: I don't know, this is hard. 
Kerry: (Modeling pounding) 
Student: Use a screwdriver. 
Kerry: Ioh tait going to work. 
Kerry: (Modeling hat going to work.)

Activity

PΕ

We used the HELP for Language material again. We are working on problem

#### Session: April 10, 2012

Fantastic attitude today and hard worker. I cannot tell you how proud I am of her

#### What could you do if you want to make a sandwich, but only have one slice of bread?

Options:

1. Go to the store and get extra slices of bread

#### What could you do if you need to feed your dog, but the dog food bag is

Options:

1. Go to the pet store or grocery store and get some more

2. Try to look in cabinets to see if anymore dog bood

Prompt: If your mon had to leave for work and didn't have time to pick up dog

3. Drop by grocery store on way to work.

4. Call a pet delivery service

4. Call a pet delivery service

Prompt: Is dog food the enyl kind of food a dog can eat? Just for day could you feed do asomething else? feed dog something else?
6. Feed dog a dog treat

## What would happen if it rained hard all day and the team played a football game that evening? 1. The players might slip 2. They might fall into mud puddles and get wet

## What could you do if it rained on one of the nights of summer camp when you were supposed to be outside? 1. Find an indoor pool 2. Find ways to entertain yoursel? 3. Play card games and indoor games with your friends

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## DATA COLLECTION IN SELF **MONITORING CHART**

			as I disrespectful to the adult? (disrespectful tone, ip			Yes	No	Yes		
		Did I have aggressio	n, property destructi	on, or threats to othe	rs?	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		I	Question			Stu	dent	Ad	lult	Points
Question		Stu	Student Adult		ult			Poi	nts	ned
Question		500	uciic	7.4	u					
		Res	ponse	Resp	ons	е	1	Earr	ned	_
Did I complain?		Yes	No	Yes	s No		Т			ints
Did I stay off-task?			No	Yes	N	o				]=
Was I disrespectful to the adult? (disrespectful tone, ignoring, putting head down)			No	Yes	N	0	I			ints
Did I have aggression, property destruction, or threats to others?		Yes	No	Yes	N	0				ned
Did I let a problem go? (If one arose)		Yes	No	Yes	N	o		2	3	

48/48 – Extra 20 Points Let a Problem Go in PE – Extra 5 Pts PERCENTAGE **DAILY POINTS** 47/48 – Extra 10 Points Let a Problem Go in Math or Civics – Extra 10 Pts /48 46/48 - Extra 5 Points Walk into hallway when asked w/o complaining – Extra 10 Pts **TOTAL POINTS** REMINDER: Complete sheet in pre-engineering!

Can you tell where he had issues with letting things go?

Was I disrespectful to the adult? (divrespectful tone, ignoring, putting head down) Yes No Yes No Did I have aggression, property destruction, or threats to others? Yes No Yes No

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## **ASSISTING OUT OF COMFORT ZONE**

- Have student initiate a majority vote with peers (raise your hand if)
- Have student lead the discussion on "What worked"

**What Worked** 

What Didn't Work

What to Do Differently

#### **EMBEDDED SKILL: "GIVE ME THREE..."**

- Give me three things that worked.
- Give me three things that didn't work.
- Give me three things that you could do in that situation.
- Give me three things that may be causing the problem.
- Give me three things that might happen.
- Give me three clues that helped you know that.



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## **THANK YOU!**

- You are welcome to use my visual supports for your personal use within your home or school.
- These visual supports are <u>NOT</u> to be used for sale or mass distribution.
- Please be respectful to use the resources for the intended use of helping students with ASD to understand difficult concepts.
- Remember that support is only a support if it is necessary and helpful.

I'm excited about the changes I plan to make since being in Birmingham last week to learn the Conversation Framework. I hope that'll give me more of a vision of what I can do to reach more of the children and teens I teach. I'm also thinking I might try to start a group for the younger children (under 12), which I haven't done in the past. I decided to scratch the lesson that was planned for my teen group last night and just do a "conversation group" and learn about "questions, stories, and comments." I was dismayed to see that my teens couldn't carry on an on-topic conversation for more than 1½ minutes without becoming silent or making a drastic change in topic.

They were interested in the change I made with the group and seemed excited to work on the new goals (although maybe a bit overwhelmed). One of them even said he couldn't believe that 50 minutes had already passed and we only have 10 minutes left. It's crazy to me that I had been following a curriculum, yet my teens were so unequipped. I look forward to seeing their progress because of what I learned from your group.

- Social Group Leader in Mobile, Alabama