



101 Ways to Use a Step by Step

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Use Step by Steps for Social Scripts!! (Musselwhite et al, 1999)

Social scripts are quick and easy to do. They are a way for a student to initiate and drive a conversation. It is important that they start with some kind of attention getter to get the communication partner's attention. Social scripts can have some kind of hook to get the communication partner interested. It is important that the partner doesn't know what is coming, so that it is a natural conversation. Social scripts can incorporate academic information, for example such as surveys or interviews for class projects. These can lend themselves easily to literacy, math, science or social studies activities, i.e. current issues such as local community events, recycling, or interviews about favorite authors/books. Social scripts can also be created to support play activities, such as practical jokes!!!!

When doing any type of script, it is crucial that the user is present and a part of constructing the script, i.e. what gets recorded. For some scripts it can also be really motivating to attach a Toy/Appliance activation. When you do that, the Step by Step speaks and activates another device simultaneously. For many more details about Social Scripts, checkout the bookette & CD: Can We Chat?, by Caroline Musselwhite & Linda Burkhart. Available from: www.aacintervention.com, www.lburkhart.com or www.ablenetinc.com.

Other listing devices such as the Sequencer from Adaptation (www.adaptivation.com) can also be used. Listing activities can also be set up on dedicated communication devices.

Sample Script: Lunch Survey

- (click) Excuse me.
- (click) I'm doing a survey on lunches at school, would you mind answering some questions?
- (click) Ready for the first question?
- (click) Did you bring your lunch or buy your lunch today?
(classmate who needs to work on math can keep a running chart)
- (click) When you buy lunch, what is your favorite?
- (click) When you bring lunch, what is your favorite?
- (click) What do you hate the most for lunch?
- (click) That's the end of our survey.
- (click) Thanks alot!
- (click) Come find me later if you want to know how are survey turns out!

The students could then take the survey information, work on counting it up and make a graph or chart out of it, extending it into other important academic areas. Surveys could be related to many areas, such as number of family members, favorite recreational activity, favorite TV shows, walk or ride the bus etc.

Sample Script: Classmate Survey

- (click) Hey, ya got a minute?
- (click) I have a couple questions for you for our class survey.
- (click) Are ya ready?
- (click) OK, what's your favorite food?
- (click) What's your favorite TV show?
- (click) Do you have any pets?
- (click) Where's your favorite place to go shopping?
- (click) When's your birthday?
- (click) P.S., my birthday is November 23!
- (click) Those are all of my questions! Thanks!
- (click) Who should we ask next?

Supporting Literacy

Literacy Scripts

Students and adults talk about the books that they have read and the things they have written. A type of social script can be made to help AAC users quickly talk about the same things. For example:

Sample Book Interview

Hey!
I am reading the coolest book.
Want to hear about it?
It's called a Wrinkle in Time.
I really like it a lot.
What are you reading right now?
What do you like about it?
Interesting.
Better get back to my desk.
Bye.

Sample Writing Conference Script

Hi!
Ready to listen to my writing?
I've been working on this and need ideas.
<student writing is recorded here>
So, what did you like the best?
Was there a part you didn't understand?
Where could I add some more details?
Anything else?
Thanks very much.
I can't wait to hear your writing now.

Write That Down!

Report writing and/or note taking in class can be a daunting task for AAC users. While they may not be able to physically write down the information they hear, they can be given the task of deciding what parts of the things they hear are useful and important. The student can use a Step by Step to indicate to a scribe/paraprofessional what should be written. The Step by Step could be programmed with the following comments: "that sounds good, write that down, that's a keeper, better jot that down!, that seems pretty important, let's hang on to that."

And the Oscar Goes To...

Practical jokes are another GREAT way to engage in social scripts. They are pretty darn motivating and pretty universal. The other bonus is that practical jokes can extend into many different age groups. Here are some starter suggestions that are a MUST for your practical joke bag! They are followed by some sample scripts which many students could have won an Oscar for!!!

- Remote Control Fart Machine (available at most Spencer's or fun shops-can be adapted for a single switch)
- Whoopee Cushion
- Fake Throw up
- Dribble Glass
- Rubber Pencil
- Fake Nail Through Finger
- Rubber Slug
- Rubber Snake
- Bug in the Cube
- Snake in the Can
- Snappy Gum

Sample Fart Script (especially fun when hooked up to Step by Step through toy/appl jack!)

(click) fart
(click) Hey, did you hear something?
(click) fart
(click) I heard it again. Did you?
(click) fart
(click) It sure sounds like it's coming from over there where you are!
(click) fart
(click) Wow. Was that you?
(click) fart
(click) Are you sure? That sure sounds like you!
(click) fart.
(click) Whew! Mind if I move somewhere else?
(click) He who denied it-supplied it!

Sample Rubber Pencil Script

(click) Excuse me.
(click) I need some help.
(click) I need to write down a phone number.
(click) I have a pencil here. Can you write it for me on this paper?
(click) OK, ready?
(click) The number is ...
(click) Is there a problem?
(click) Are you sure you're holding the pencil right?
(click) I think you need to just press a little harder on the paper.
(click) Hey, where did you learn how to write?
(click) Ha ha ha-who should we get next????

Sample Rubber Slug/Snake Script

- (click) Mom, Mom
(click) Come here!!
(click) You won't believe what I found!
(click) It's so GROSS!!
(click) It's all slimy!
(click) It's slinking around in the grass.
(click) Don't you see it? (student points AWAY from where the snake/slug really is)
(click) Careful-I wouldn't walk that way if I were you!
(click) It looks like it's coming right towards you!
(click) See it yet?
(click) There! I saw it move again. Didn't you?
(click) Do you really want me to show you?
(click) Well I guess I will, as long as we find another person to play this joke on!!!

Sample Fake Throw Up Script

- (click) Excuse me.
(click) Come here.
(click) Please.
(click) I feel sick.
(click) Oh, I don't know.
(click) I have a headache and a stomachache.
(click) Can you please get me a glass of water and a kleenex?
Communication partner exits to get those items & fake throw up is placed in person's lap or on table or floor.
(click) I feel so sick!!!!!!!
(click) It seems like it just got much worse.
(click) Ha ha ha! Are you sick of this yet?????? Got ya!!

Explore, Recite & Rehearse with a Step by Step

Can use the Step by Step to recite and rehearse important information. The beauty of the Step by Step is that things get spoken in a list order, so the student doesn't have to worry about the sequencing part. Often kids without disabilities will "rehearse" and verbally repeat facts to help them remember it. The Step by Step may be a way that students with disabilities can also do this. Here are some quick ideas.

- Lines to a poem
- Lines to a short story
- Lines to a song
- Lines to a rhyme, chant or tongue twister
- Lines in a play or skit
- List of things to be bought at grocery store
- List of things that are needed for a particular activity
- ABCs
- Number Counting
- Homework Facts
- Directions to an activity

Play Scripts on a Step by Step

You can use the Step by Step for the student to be a part of dramatic play. Play scripts are different from social scripts in that there might be close ended questions. The focus is on interaction, but also on imitation and make believe. The user tells a script that the communication partners may act out. Usually scripts are based on predictable activities. As the play proceeds, the script will need to be changed and re-recorded. You're helping the child engage in play when you help them decide which way the next script should go: they're getting a chance to be involved in the make believe part. It would be the really helpful to have actual peers make the recordings based on the types of play they engage in.

Sample Play Scripts:

Who Wants to be a Millionaire? (You'll usually run out of recording time!)

(click) Welcome to Who Wants to be a Millionaire!!!

(click) (insert name), come on down!

(click) Welcome, (insert name).

(click) Tell us a little about yourself.

(click) Alright then! You know the rules-Let's play!

(click) Ready for your first question?

(click) Question 1 (insert question & possible answers here)

(click) Are you sure?

(click) Is that your final answer?...

Pet Veteranarian

Props: Small stuffed animal and miniature doctor kit

(click) Doctor, doctor, I need your help!!

(click) Something is wrong with my dog!

(click) This morning, he ate a sock and all of the cat food.

(click) He threw up everywhere and wouldn't get up.

(click) Be careful, he might try to bite you-he doesn't feel well.

(click) Does he need any tests?

(click) Does he need to go to the hospital?

(click) Doctor, what do you think is wrong????

(click) Do we need a nurse in here?

Work with child to decide what will happen next...hospital or lab or home? Make next script.

Jazz Up Your Step by Step Scripts by Using the Toy/Appliance Function!

(Gretchen Hanser MS, OTR, updated 1/2004)

Social scripts and play scripts are a powerful way of putting the AAC user in the driver's seat (Musselwhite & Burkhart, T.A.L.K. Bookette, 2000, Can We Chat?, 2002). The Step by Step comes with this awesome feature of being able to speak a message and activate a switch adapted toy or appliance at the same time! That can really boost the power of some of your scripts!! All you need is the 1/8" male to male cable that comes with the Step by Step and a fun switch adapted toy or appliance!!

Attaching a Toy/Appliance Activation to a Message(s):

**** (Works for both the OLD and NEW models of the Step by Step)**

1. Go through the usual routine for recording messages. Depress the top surface of the Step by Step and record your message.
2. When you want to attach a toy/appliance activation to a specific message, while you are recording with the top surface button depressed, tap the Repeat/Rec button once. Then, release the top surface of the Step by Step.
3. When recording more messages, you don't have to put a toy/appliance activation on every message. It depends on the activity and the context.
4. Plug one end of the male to male cable into the Toy/Appl jack on the Step by Step.
5. Plug other end to adapted item (battery interrupted item, Power Link, All Turn It) and test!

BONUS TIDBIT: There may be some parts of your script where you want just the Toy/Appl output, and not any verbal message. When you do that, you may hear a clicking noise and then your Toy/Appliance output. This click noise is from the pressing the top surface of the Step by Step. In these cases, you may want to use an external switch plugged into the Switch jack-this would be the same as pressing the top surface of the Step by Step down. This cuts down on the noise.

Toy/Appliance Activation Modes on the OLD Model of the Step by Step:

On the old Step by Step, you have 2 choices of how long and when the toy/appliance activation occurs.

- **PULSE MODE:** Activation occurs for a 1/2 second at the end of the message. Unless you have changed it, older Step by Steps are automatically setup in the PULSE MODE.
- **CONTINUOUS MODE:** Activation occurs for the duration of the message.

Changing MODES on the OLD Step by Step:

1. Turn off Step by Step and leave it alone for 5 minutes. (It will seem like years!)
2. Before turning the unit on, hold down the top surface of the Step by Step and Repeat/Rec button simultaneously. While continuing to hold both buttons down, turn the Step by Step on. Release both buttons and the Step by Step should be in the CONTINUOUS MODE.
3. To change back to PULSE MODE, repeat steps 1 and 2.

ONE MORE BONUS TIDBIT: When changing modes, you DO NOT have to re-record messages and reattach the toy/appliance activations. The older Step by Step remembers which messages you attached them to.

Toy/Appliance Activation Modes on the NEW Model of the Step by Step:

The new Step by Step simply has the CONTINUOUS mode available, so you don't need to worry about changing modes anymore!

See www.ablenetinc.com and www.aacintervention.com for more fun ways of using the Step by Step!