This is a page from the AAC/CVI Matrix, developed by Chris Russell and Jennifer Willis in 2020 .To learn more: watch the
Perkins ELearning webinar: https://perkinselearning.org/videos/webinar/cvi-aac-matrix-0

1. Touch cues

A touch cue is a non-intrusive touch on a specific place on the student's body that is done consistently to convey information about an upcoming event. Touch cues can be used to provide information, give a directive, and give feedback. Touch cues should be paired with sign and/or speech. Communication partners should work together to develop and implement a shared inventory of touch cues for consistent use with the student, but can also be simply used in the moment to alert a child to anticipate additional prompting or physical contact. Touch cues are typically used as a receptive communication mode, but may be used expressively by the student over time to express wants/needs. *Touch cues differ from haptics in that they are not a standardized system but are rather unique to the individual and those who interact with him/her.*

Sample Touch Cue Inventory (this is not an exhaustive list)

Action/Activity	Touch Cue
Approaching the child	Light tap/touch to shoulder ***Always use this touch cue before any other physical interaction***
Initiate hand under hand contact	Trail from child's shoulder to forearm before engaging hand-under-hand *(see example to the right)*
Toileting/Changing	Light tap/touch to location of diaper tabs
Putting on/taking off orthotics	Light touch on shin before taking off shoe or putting on
Changing position	Light touch upward under child's elbow
Picking up child	Light touch upward under child's armpits
Putting on/taking off glasses or hearing aids/CI	Light touch on side of head/face
Suctioning	Light touch near trach
Connecting g-tube	Light touch to g-tube site/side of g-tube
Tooth brushing	Show tooth brush tactilely/visually, light touch to side of mouth
Feeding	Light touch near mouth/on lips before presentation of spoon
Sit	Gentle pressure on the shoulder, touch chair

Example

A teacher uses a touch cue to let the student know she is initiating hand-under-hand contact

TIP: Pair all touch cues with simple, consistent verbal and/or signed language (e.g. "Shoes off.")