**Moving Toward Abstract Symbols Strategy**

**Pair known with Abstract, Practice in Routines, Respond**

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* **Introduction (Partner)**: pair known symbol with a more abstract representation in the hierarchy of existing routines and provide opportunities to use “new’ symbol. For example: object to similar object; similar object to part of object; part of object to photograph; picture to line drawing; line drawing to word.
* **Targeted Behaviors (Response)**: demonstrates understanding of new symbol, makes choice, participates in activity, touches or gazes at desired item.
* **Partner’s Response**: respond appropriately according to the individual's intent.
* **Outcome**: individual learns to communicate at more abstract levels across Level V intents (greet, offer, direct attention, polite social forms, answer/ask questions).

**Why Move to Abstract Symbols?**

Abstract symbols:

• Provide the means for creating language not just communication.

• Represent “core” vocabulary that can be the foundation for creating multi-word utterances.

• Provide the individual with frequently used vocabulary that are not easily picturable (e.g. that, want).

• Are available in predesigned sets, thereby decreasing the time needed to create symbols.

• Facilitate the use of electronic AAC devices.