



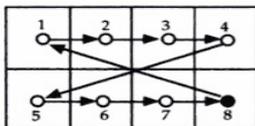
Partner-Assisted Scanning

What is Partner-Assisted Scanning?

Partner-assisted scanning is an access method in which a communication partner presents light-tech message options, using letters, objects or picture symbols, visually and auditorily for a child who is unable to use direct selection (i.e., point to pictures with a finger). In this access method, the child uses a nonverbal (or single message speech-generating device) "yes" to indicate a selection.

How Is Partner-Assisted Scanning Provided?

- Give directions about how you want your child to respond. For example, "When you hear the one you want, [touch the picture, say "yes" with your switch, nod your head, say 'yeah' with your voice]."
- When "scanning" through each choice, "*state the label for each item, without changing the wording or using the intonation or expression of social speech*" (Porter, 2007, p. 95).
- Point to or hold up each letter, picture or object, *one at a time** with a few seconds between each choice. Try not to cover up the letter, picture or object as you are pointing to it or holding it up.
- If you are using a communication book or board, the order of the scan is very important. Always start at the top left and show symbols from *left to right**. At the end of each row, start at the beginning of the next row. This ensures consistency between communication partners and allows the child to become more familiar with the order of the items in the book or on the board. This is similar to a linear scanning pattern on a high-tech speech generating device.
- If the child indicates "no" or makes no selection, present the next option.
- If the child indicates "yes," respond to whatever the child selected. For example, if the child says "yes" when you're holding up the symbol for "more," then verbally acknowledge the selection (e.g., "Oh, you want more") and then respond to it (e.g., provide more of the activity or object).
- In some cases, a picture in a communication book will have a number on it. If the picture has a number, you will need to flip to the page noted on the cell and continue providing options from that page using the same procedures listed above.
- Continue until the message is complete. Repeat as necessary.



**Talk to your child's therapist to determine if row-column (group) partner-assisted scanning is appropriate.*