

* The Problems with Hand-Over Hand v2.0 *

Hand Over Hand is a strategy that is sometimes used to get students to complete or participate in tasks, with the aim of them eventually learning to do the task independently. However, there is increasing concern about the use of hand-over-hand and here's why....

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What does hand-over-hand mean?

It means we "make" the student do the task (or communicate) by taking the control of their hands away from them.

Why are we concerned about using it?

Because research has shown that passive modelling of the task is actually more effective in teaching it, than hand-over-hand is.

What are some of the other problems with hand-over-hand

- Being so close to the student may provide sensory overload
- There's no evidence that it works
- It is hard to us to know (if using for communication) whether the message comes from the AAC user or the person who has a hand on them.

What messages does hand-over-hand send to the student?

1.
It sends a message that we have the right to manipulate their bodies, and to make them touch or do things whether they want to or not.

2.
It sends a message that we have the right to make them do things just because we want them to do them.

3.
It sends a message that even if they don't want to do something, we will make them do it.



Links to check out:

Biederman, G. B., Fairhall, J. L., Raven, K. A., & Davey, V. A. (1998). Verbal Prompting, Hand-over-Hand Instruction, and Passive Observation in Teaching Children with Developmental Disabilities. *Exceptional Children*, 64(4), 503–511. <https://doi.org/10.1177/001440299806400406>

Rethinking the AAC Prompting Hierarchy in Severe Apraxia (Teaching Learners with Multiple Special Needs)

Why Hand-over-hand Teaching is not the best approach (A Sensory Life)

When Less Is More by Kathie Snow

Presuming Competence in Practice by Speak for Yourself

Why I do not Use Hand Over Hand by Simply Special Ed

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