

Partial Participation

What is Partial Participation?

All students are learners. The principle of partial participation is that **all students** can participate in all activities. Inviting a student to participate in an activity, even when they are not yet ready to do all the steps within it, encourages them to develop skills and learn concepts. Appropriate teaching strategies and adaptations are offered and then gradually stepped back, according to the levels of prompts the student requires.



Why is Partial Participation important?

- Positive teaching strategy that encourages learning.
- Can be paired with forward or backward chaining to provide opportunities for learning.

Benefits for the student:

- Builds self confidence
- Develops cognitive and motor skills
- Assists learning independent living skills
- Provides many opportunities for repetition
- Works on skills in natural situations
- Leads to independence

Tips for using Partial Participation:

- "Everyday Activities" or functional routines that focus on life skills and concept development are great places to look for opportunities to build in partial participation. Identify the steps your student can already do independently and then develop strategies or implement adaptations for the rest of the activity where they need support.
- Your student will learn more from a routine that is practiced in its entirety than a routine that is fragmented (think set up to clean up).
- Since you are encouraging your student to participate in an activity, also use wait time. If it is worth doing or teaching, it's worth the wait.
- Start with the least intrusive prompt when teaching your student how to use adaptations that you have implemented.



Connect with your POPDB Consultant for support with using partial participation.