

Verbal-Directed Interaction (VDI) Skills

VDI is when your child IS READY to be prompted.

What is a valid VDI sequence?

A valid sequence *ideally** starts with an effective question:

- 1. Forced-Choice Questions**
- 2. Open-Ended Questions**

The adult then waits 5 seconds.....(distress tolerance!)

Valid sequences include:

1. The child responds verbally and the adult follows up with a labeled praise and/or a reflection.
2. The child responds non-verbally (shrug shoulders, points, etc.). The adult acknowledges the non-verbal response and re-asks the questions. The child then responds verbally and the adult follows up with labeled praise and/or reflection.
3. The child does NOT respond at all. The adult re-asks the same question or re-formats the questions (adding/giving different choices). The child responds verbally and the adult follows up with labeled praise and/or reflection.

Invalid sequences are everything that strays from skills listed above. Some common examples include:

- Accepting a non-verbal response
- Answering for the child
- Forgetting to give a praise or reflect the child's speech
- Asking a yes/no question and accepting nodding or shaking head
- Asking the question again, or numerous times, before waiting 5 seconds

If the child does NOT respond after two prompts, the adult should then:

1. Go to the last place/person/activity/question that the child was successful answering and practice there.
2. Let the child know they will practice more talking later and return to CDI.

***As therapists, we coach away from using "Yes/No" Questions, because they allow the child to respond non-verbally by shaking or nodding their head. However, if an adult starts with a Yes/No Question and the child responds verbally and the adult follows up with a labeled praise, then the sequence is considered valid.**