

Using Time Delay to Teach Word Recognition

About Time Delay

1. What is time delay?
A method of systematic prompting and fading the prompt using small increments of time
2. Why does time delay work
Suppresses errors
3. Is there research to support the use of time delay
Use, this is an evidence-based practice

Example of Constant Time Delay with Receptive Reading

Zero Second Time Delay:

- Step 1:** Present the vocabulary word/picture and distractors
- Step 2:** Prompt the student by putting your finger on the word and giving a verbal direction (e.g. "Show me 'man'." Teacher is pointing to word 'man'.")
- Step 3:** (a) If the student points to the correct word, give praise for pointing to the correct word or (b) If the student does not point, use a physical prompt in helping the student locate the correct word.
- Step 4:** Error correction/feedback. There should be no error on this trial unless the student refuses to prompt or cannot imitate a point response.

When the student answers correctly with the zero second time delay, move on to the five second time delay.

Five Second Time Delay:

- Step 1:** Present the vocabulary word/picture and I distractors
- Step 2:** Give the verbal direction "Show me 'man'."
- Step 3:** Wait for 5 seconds
- Step 4:** (a) If the student points to the correct word, give praise for pointing to the correct word or
(b) If the student does not point, or points to an incorrect word, use a physical prompt in helping the student locate the correct word.
- Step 5:** Error correction/feedback . "No, this is 'man'. If you are not sure, wait and I will help you."

Decisions for Using Time Delay

1. Expressive or receptive reading ? (Say it or point)
2. Type of model prompt (If student is to say it, model saying it. If student is to point, model pointing.)
3. How many "warm up" trials at zero?
4. How long to wait on delayed trials? (e.g., 5 seconds? Or progressive 2-4-6-8 seconds)