

FACT SHEET: POWER CARD STRATEGY



Power Card Strategy involves including special interests with visual aids to teach and reinforce academic, behavioral, and social skills to individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

1 When can the Power Card Strategy be Used?

Since many individuals with ASD tend to have highly developed special interests, this strategy is especially beneficial for this population. By using their special interest, the individual is motivated to use the strategy presented in the scenario and on the Power Card. It is a positive strategy that is often entertaining as well as inexpensive and simple to develop.

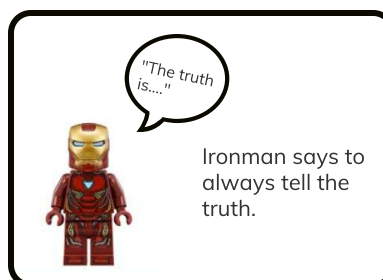
It can be used:

- to increase understanding of expectations
- to clarify choices
- to teach cause and effect between a specific behavior and its consequences
- to teach another's perspective
- to aid in generalization
- as a visual reminder

Generally, power cards are used with individuals who display a mild to moderate cognitive disability. For those individuals more cognitively impacted, a more direct teaching strategy should be used.

2 What are the Components of the Power Card Strategy?

1. Using the special interest, create a brief script of the situation being addressed. It should be written at the individual's comprehension level, and contain the solution to the situation broken into 3-5 steps including relevant pictures or graphics. Initially, the script should be read on a schedule basis as the student learns to use the Power Card.
2. The Power Card is the size of a trading card and includes a small picture of the special interest on the front and the solution to the problem situation on the back. The Power Card is created from the script and can be carried by the student.
3. When the Power card is used, provide specific feedback on how well the student used the skill.



Power Card Example:

The Materials below were created by Laura Dickenson, a special education teacher. They were developed to help a young learner with autism learn game playing skills.



The Survivors Play a game

The contestants on Survivor love to play games! In fact, playing games on the show is how they win rewards or win immunity. Sometimes the players and teams win their games, but sometimes, they lose. When they win, they give each other "high fives", smile or say, "Alright!". When they lose their game, the Survivors might not be happy. They could take a deep breath and say, "Maybe next time", or say "Good job" to the opponent.

The contestants on Survivor think everyone should have fun playing games. They also want you to remember three things when playing games with other people:

1. Games should be fun for everyone.
2. If you win a game, you can : Smile, give high fives, or say, "Alright!"
3. If you lose a game, you can: Take a deep breath and say, "Good job" to the opponent or say, "Maybe next time."

Play games the Survivor way and your friends will have fun playing games with you!

Front of Power Card



Back of Power Card

The contestants on Survivor think everyone should have fun playing games. They also want you to remember three things when playing games with other people.

1. Games should be fun for everyone.
2. If you win a game, you can: Smile, give high fives, or say, "Alright!"
3. If you lose a game, you can: Take a deep breath and say, "Good job" to the opponent or say, "Maybe next time."

Resources

Book:

Myles, B.S., Trautman, M. L., & Schlevan, R. L. (2006). *The Hidden Curriculum: Practical Solutions for Understanding Unstated Rules in Social Situations*. Autism Asperger Publishing Company: Shawnee Mission, KS.

Websites:

https://www.ocali.org/project/resource_gallery_of_interventions/page/Power-Cards

www.asperger.net

Reference:

Gagnon, E. (2001). *Power cards: Using special interests to motivate children and youth with Asperger syndrome and autism*. Shawnee Mission, KS: Autism Asperger Publishing