Target Objective: Make the “Sign of the Cross”

Target Response: Learner will express the “Sign of the Cross” after the processional hymn and after the closing “Let us go in peace to love and serve our Lord, Jesus Christ.”

Teaching Procedure:

Beginning of Mass:
The “Sign of the Cross” will take place while standing in the pew after the procession hymn is finished. At this time the priest stands facing the worshiping community. The priest will begin saying, “In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.” “In” is the verbal prompt to begin the action of the “Sign of the Cross” at this time. *(If the learner has expressive language, he/she will also say “In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen” while motioning each step of the “Sign of the Cross.”)*

End of Mass
The “Sign of the Cross” will also occur at the end of Mass while standing in the pew after the priest says, “Let us go in peace to love and serve our Lord, Jesus Christ.” When the priest has finished speaking, begin the “sign of the Cross” procedure. *(If the learner has expressive language, at this time he/she will say “In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen” while motioning each step of the “Sign of the Cross.”)*

Materials:
The learner will have a step-by-step visual of the “Sign of the Cross” procedure in the Mass book. The learner will have the opportunity to model other people participating at Mass.

Prompting:
If the learner does not complete each step correctly, physical, verbal or gestural prompting may be utilized to ensure the appropriate form. *(Verbal prompting may be used if the learner is not vocalizing “In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.” Prompts will be faded as each step is acquired.)*

Reinforcement:
When learner completes the “Sign of the Cross” verbal praise, “Good job Signing the Cross,” “You spoke the Sign of the Cross very well,” “I like how you did that,” edibles (child specific) or tangibles (child specific) may be utilized.

**Teaching Steps:**

1. Right Hand – join fingers loosely together, thumb placement is relaxed also.
2. Raise right hand to the middle of forehead.
3. Touch forehead with fingertips still loosely held together. (It is expected that it would be the tips of index and middle fingers, and possibly ring finger that would make contact with the forehead or other areas of the body referenced below, but this is not critical. Judge based on the abilities and coordination of the learner.)
4. Say, “In the name of the Father,”
5. Maintain hand form and lower the right hand to the center of chest
6. Touch chest with fingertips
7. Say “and the Son”
8. Diagonally raise right hand from center of chest to left shoulder
9. Touch left shoulder
10. Say, “and the Holy”
11. Maintaining hand form, move hand to the right shoulder
12. Touch the right should with fingertips
13. Say “Spirit”
14. Bring hands together, palm facing each other and fingers pointed upward, and say, “Amen.”

**Measurement:**

The learner will complete the steps for acquiring the skill of the “Sign of the Cross” at 100% accuracy.

IOA\(^1\) should be collected by the additional Mass Buddies and/or a parent during the second opportunity the “Sign of the Cross” occurs during Mass.

Data will be recorded at each step to show whether the skill is being acquired during Mass.

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\(^1\) IOA – Inter Observer Agreement – any two people collecting data. Two observers will be scoring the learner independently.

*A PRAISE resource. Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, Archdiocese of Newark.*

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