

February 2011



## Evidence -Based consulting

From the desk of the  
Tumbleweed consultant

Hello all,

March starts tomorrow. That means spring break for most of you, along with one of my favorite holidays, St. Patrick's Day! Since I could not find an evidence based practice to support my love of singing "tura lura lura", I will instead provide information on the equally important practice of time delay prompting.

*Time delay is a practice that focuses on fading the use of prompts during instructional activities while also delivering reinforcement to increase the likelihood that target skills/behaviors will be used in the future. This practice is always used in conjunction with prompting procedures such as least-to-most prompting, simultaneous prompting, and graduated guidance. (Neitzel, J., & Wolery, M. (2009).*

Prompting is tricky business. If we prompt too quickly, we do not allow a student needed processing time to answer. If we wait too long, we increase the chance of error and frustration. Students have a tendency to become overly dependent on prompts if they are not faded correctly.

Professional Development in Autism PDA <http://depts.washington.edu>, has published a brief and Tip Sheet to help professionals understand time delay prompting. For an in depth discussion, visit The National Professional Development Center at <http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/content/time-delay>.

May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.

Have a safe spring break and don't forget to wear green!

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