Competencies
S4 Demonstrates the ability to communicate effectively and consistently, using strategies to help students with ASD communicate effectively including: modeling and reinforcement, repairing communication breakdowns, providing relevant social/communication cues and implementing planned interventions such as picture exchange or symbolic communication systems under the direction of licensed staff.

Strategies for Improving Communication Skills with ASD

Read the scenario and then answer the questions that follow.

Scenario
Cayden is a 1st grader with Autism Spectrum Disorder who has been receiving direct instruction to learn to identify nonverbal communication of others, make requests, and appropriately refuse objects and activities he does not want.

Questions
Using information presented in this lesson, describe ways that you can help Cayden generalize the skills she has been taught through direct instruction to other settings in which he spends time during the day. Listed below are seven strategies to reinforcing improved communication among students with ASD that were covered in this lesson. For each one, describe what the strategy might look like if you used it with Cayden.

1. Use Direct Signals to Change Sensory Channels
2. Practice Decoding Paraverbal and Nonverbal Communication

3. Address Ambiguous Language

4. Model Appropriate Language
5. Use Communication Temptations

6. Reinforce Communication Attempts

7. Repair Communication Breakdowns