

## **Research-Based Practice:** Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)

### **References:**

\*Bondy, A., & Frost, L. (1994). The Picture Exchange Communication System. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, 9(1), 2-19.

Charlop-Christy, M. H., Carpenter, M., LeBlanc, L. A., & Kellet, K. (2002). Using the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) with children with autism: Assessment of PECS acquisition, speech, social-communicative behavior, and problem behavior. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 35(3), 213-231.

Miranda, P. (2003). Toward functional augmentative and alternative communication for students with autism: Manual signs, graphic symbols, and voice output communication aids. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, 34, 203-216.

### **\*original research on use of PECS**

**Description:** PECS is an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) system that focuses on teaching students to use pictures or symbols to communicate with others. It begins with basic picture or symbol exchange in which the student learns to give a communication partner a picture or symbol to get a desired item or activity. Students then learn more sophisticated ways to use pictures or symbols to make requests and engage in more complex communication with others.