Using a Plunger

Sample IEP Goal:

With 2 or fewer prompts, the student will complete the steps required to use a plunger with 100% accuracy on 4 out of 5 opportunities.

Possible Settings:

- Bathroom (home, school, public)

Items Needed:

- Clogged Toilet
- Plunger
- Task analysis
- Visual supports

⏱ Preparing for the Lesson

1. Prior to beginning the lesson, gather baseline data to assess the student's current ability to use a plunger. Have the student attempt to use a plunger, but offer no prompts. Record their data online (or you may use the task analysis attached if a computer/tablet is not available). Monitor students and intervene as necessary to ensure student safety.
2. Determine the setting where the lesson will take place (consider how the video model will be used in the natural setting, during routines, etc.) and what materials will be used (see Planning for Generalization).
3. Identify how the video model will be shown (e.g., on an iPad or tablet, etc.). If technology is not available to view the video model, the student may also use the visual supports provided (i.e., the visual task analysis or the photo cards).

🎬 Implementing the Video Model

1. Use the baseline data to determine how much of the video the student views (e.g., if they can already pick up the plunger by the handle independently and consistently, start the video at a point that shows the remaining steps).
2. Show the student the video model for using a plunger.
3. When presenting the video model, prompt the student to attend to the video (as needed). Some students may need to see the video several times before being asked to perform the target skill. Determine the appropriate number of times for each student to watch the video model.
4. After the student has viewed the video, have the student attempt to perform the target skill. Use the task analysis (see below) to monitor their progress toward completing the task independently.

📈 Collecting Data Using the Task Analysis

1. After collecting baseline data and having the student view the video, have them attempt to use a plunger. Have **Transition to Adulthood** (on www. teachtown.com) open to the Assessment, or use the task analysis provided, to collect data (intervention phase).
2. Give the instructional directive, "Use the plunger." As the student completes each step to use the plunger, note whether they completed the step independently, or what level of prompting they required to complete each step.
3. Offer positive reinforcement (e.g., verbal praise, token, tangible, etc.) for steps completely correctly.

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✋ Prompting/Fading Procedures

As the student begins to acquire the skill, you may:
1. Delay the start of the video or stop it before it is over (so the student sees less of the video model). Gradually decrease the amount of the video shown.
2. If there is only one step in the task analysis that they are consistently performing incorrectly, show them only that section of the video. Have them re-watch and practice the step as needed.
3. Use a time delay when prompting the student. If the student does not complete the step (doesn't even begin the step in the task analysis) within 4 seconds of the prompt, "Use the plunger," provide them with least-to-most prompting (gestural, then verbal, then model, then physical prompting) as needed for the student to complete the steps accurately.

EXAMPLE

If the student doesn't respond within 4 seconds, give them the gesture prompt (i.e., point to the handle etc.). If they still do not respond, offer the verbal prompt, "Pick up the plunger by the handle." If they still do not pick up the plunger by the handle, have them watch the segment of the video that models picking up the plunger by the handle. If they still do not respond, use hand-over-hand prompting to complete the step.

4. Fade prompting until the student is performing the skill independently. Some students may continue to need some support; however, the goal should be that they <u>do not</u> require another person to be present to perform the target skill. Teach the student to manage their own behavior using the visual supports.

👥 Planning for Generalization

❏ Have the student use a plunger in a variety of settings (e.g., various bathroom set ups, etc.).
❏ Have the student use a variety of plungers (e.g., various brands, sizes, etc.).
❏ Have the student practice cleaning the toilet and washing their hands after plunging the toilet (may implement the lessons for these skills prior to targeting Using a Plunger).
❏ Have the student practice wearing gloves when plunging a toilet (particularly in a public bathroom).
❏ Have the student practice what to do if the toilet is overflowing (e.g., lay out towels, use a bucket to remove excess water, use a disinfectant cleaner on the toilet and floor afterwards, etc.).
❏ Have the student practice placing a "Bathroom out of order" sign on the door until the issue is resolved.
❏ Have the student practice what to do if they are unable to fix the issues (e.g., ask for help, call a plumber, etc.).
❏ If you are unable to practice in a natural environment (bathroom, etc.), make sure you vary the contrived situation (e.g., change locations, change set-up, etc.).

Student Name: _____

Data Collection Phase (circle one): *Use a different data sheet for each phase.*

Baseline   Intervention   Maintenance   Generalization (specify): _____

DATE										
1. Notice that the toilet is clogged.										
2. Lift the toilet seat.										
3. Pick up the plunger by the handle.										
4. Put the plunger into the toilet over the hole.										
5. Push the plunger up and down in the hole.										
6. Continue this until the water goes down the toilet.										
7. Flush the toilet to make sure the clog is gone.										
8. Put the plunger away.										
TOTALS*										

Total number of steps completed independently and accurately (could note percentage).

KEY	I	G	V	M	P
	Independent and accurate	Gesture prompt	Verbal prompt	Model prompt (could be use of the video model)	Physical prompt

Using a Plunger		Done?
	1. Notice that the toilet is clogged.	☐
	2. Lift the toilet seat.	☐
	3. Pick up the plunger by the handle.	☐
	4. Put the plunger in the toilet over the hole.	☐
	5. Push the plunger up and down in the hole.	☐
	6. Continue this until the water goes down the toilet.	☐
	7. Flush the toilet to make sure the clog is gone.	☐
	8. Put the plunger away.	☐

Notice that the toilet is clogged.

Lift the toilet seat.

Pick up the plunger by the handle.

Put the plunger in the toilet over the hole.

Push the plunger up and down in the hole.

Continue this until the water goes down the toilet.

Flush the toilet to make sure the clog is gone.

Put the plunger away.

If	Then
The toilet water splashes or overflows on the toilet seat and/or the floor.	Clean the toilet and floor with a disinfecting cleaner.
The toilet it still clogged after I plunged it.	Try to plunge it again and/or call a plumber.
The toilet water is very high.	Put towels on the floor around the toilet before using the plunger.
I don't have a plunger.	Go buy a plunger or call a plumber.
I need help.	I will ask someone.