POWER CARD STRATEGY

The power card strategy is a visual aid that uses the student’s special interest in teaching appropriate social interactions including:

- routines
- behavior expectations
- the meaning of language
- the hidden curriculum

The Power Card Strategy consists of presenting on a single sheet or in booklet form a short scenario, written in the first person, describing how the child’s hero solves a problem and a small card (the POWER CARD) recaps how the child can use the same strategy to solve a similar problem himself.

COMPONENTS:

- A brief scenario using the student’s hero or special interest and the behavior or situation that is difficult for the student. Make sure to write on the student’s comprehension level.
  - 1st paragraph: The hero or role model attempts a solution to the problem and experiences success.
  - 2nd paragraph: Encourage the student to try out the new behavior, which is broken down into 3-5 manageable steps.

- The POWER CARD is the size of a trading card, bookmark, or business card. It contains a small picture of the special interest and the solutions to the problem behavior or situation broken down into 3-5 steps. The POWER CARD AIDS IN GENERALIZATION. It can be carried in a pocket, notebook, or velcroed inside a book, notebook, etc. It can also be placed on the corner of a student’s desk.

EXAMPLE: Student Description: Aaron has been acting out in class and seeking attention from his peers by saying or blurting out inappropriate comments in class. He likes the attention he gets for doing this and thinks he is accepted when peers laugh at him for doing this.

Aaron’s special interest is NASCAR and Jeff Gordon.

POWER CARD STORY:

“Jeff Gordon and His Fans”

Jeff Gordon loves being a race car driver, but sometimes it is hard for him to think before he speaks. At the end of a long day sometimes all he wants to do is make others laugh. Sometimes Jeff blurts things out when his boss is talking. But Jeff has learned to think before he speaks. Jeff has learned it is important not to talk when his boss is talking and not to say things to try and make others laugh when his boss is trying to talk to his pit crew and teach them the
latest NASCAR rules and regulations. Jeff has learned to stop and think about the comments he makes before speaking.

Just like Jeff, it is important for Aaron to think before he speaks. It would make Jeff proud to know that Aaron is like him and that he thinks before he speaks and doesn’t interrupt his teachers in class. It is important for Aaron to remember to do the following:

1. **Think before he speaks.** Say it in your head first before saying it out loud. If it’s not related to what the teacher is teaching then Aaron shouldn’t say it out loud in class.
2. **If Aaron can’t think of something to say about the teacher’s lesson,** it’s better for him not to say anything at all.
3. **Always follow the classroom rules and raise your hand before you speak.**

The POWER CARD would look like this: