

How to...use visuals to support communication



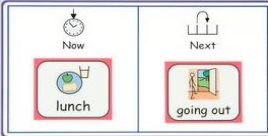
Why do we need to use visuals to support communication?

- To support understanding and learning
- To support the processing of information and reinforce verbal language
- As tool to prepare children for change, for example, what is happening now and what will happen next.

How can we use visuals to support communication?

- Use visuals consistently, not just as a response to a difficult situation.
- Ensure the visuals match the child's cognitive ability and progress visuals as a child's ability increases.
- Ensure all adults working with the child/ young person are aware of the visuals used to support understanding and use of language.

What visuals can be used to support communication?

| Objects of Reference | Talking Tile | Photo Key Ring | Now/Next Board | Visual Timetable |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| An object to represent an activity | A recording to represent a transition or activity | Photos of key activities, people or locations | A board to explain what is happening now/next | A series of images to indicate what is happening over a set period of time |
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