

What is... Objects of Reference (OoR)

What are they?

Objects of Reference are objects with special meanings given to them, to represent different activities within the day, for example a coat might represent outside.

What does Objects of Reference support?

Attention and Listening

- Supporting children to attend to activities and learn where they might take place.

Understanding of Language

- Using objects to support understanding of familiar routines in the day
- Transitions between activities.

Expressive Language

- Supporting children to make a request by providing a means of communication.

Key Considerations

There are different types of Objects of Reference, and it is important to think about the child or young person's abilities and which type would be most appropriate for them.

Object Cues

- Multi-sensory cues to symbolise an activity, including a smell, specific song and object.
- A real object that is used as part of the activity.
-E.g. Swimming: smell-chlorine or object-towel.



Object Referents

An icon related to the activity it represents by resemblance but is separate to the activity. E.g. Swimming, object- a piece of towel mounted on a card.

Object Symbols

A symbol that represents the activity/transition, this is an object separate to the activity that may be abstract.

Such as, swimming: using shiny metallic paper to signify the water.

