

# Using visuals to support speech-language and communication development

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# Learning Outcomes :

1. To understand the functions of visual support
2. To learn how to effectively use visuals in everyday routines
3. To learn how to use visuals to support communication

# A Visual Experience



**65%** of the population  
are visual learners

► Images are processed faster than text

**50%** Of the brain is dedicated  
to visual functions

Source: Mark Smiciklas (2012). The Power of Infographics:  
Using Pictures to Communicate and Connect with Your Audience.

# Why use visuals?



INDEPENDENCE

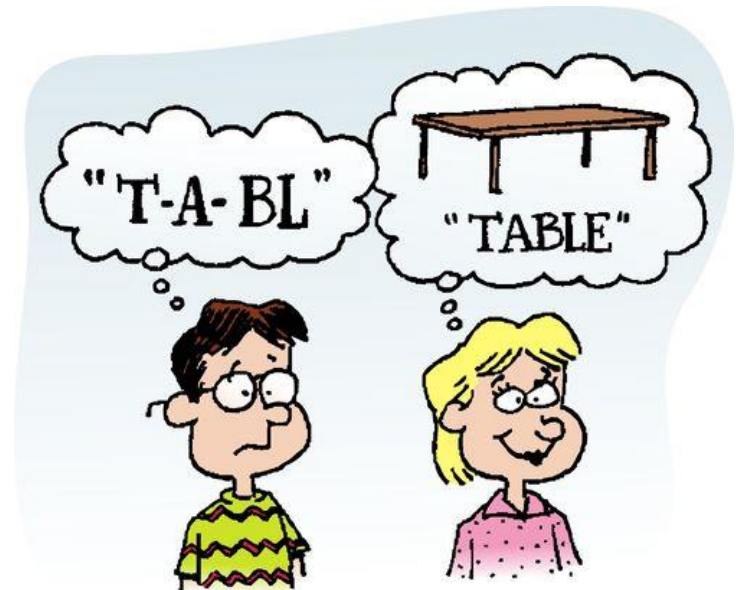
UNDERSTANDING

SUCCESS

PARTICIPATION

# Why use visuals?

- ▶ Children are visual learners
- ▶ Make words/ideas permanent
- ▶ Helps us be clear and predictable
- ▶ Calming

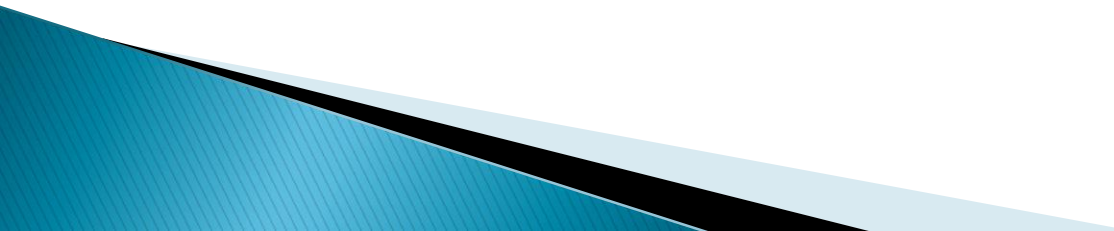


# Why use visuals?



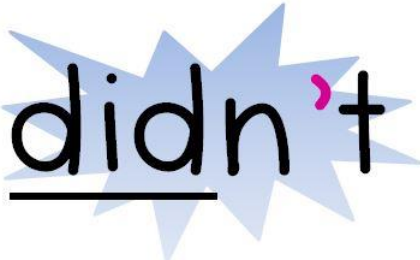



**DEPENDENCY** on adult/ teacher  
**QUESTIONING**  
**BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS**

# Visuals help children to understand....


- Choices
  - What's going to happen  
(e.g., transition objects, first/then board)
  - How to do things independently  
(e.g., self-help boards)
  - Difficult situations
- 

# What's VISUAL here ?

<p>e e</p> <p>easy</p> <p>e e</p>	<p>friends</p> 
<p>red</p> 	<p><u>didn't</u></p> 
 <p>heard</p>	<p>abc 123</p> <p>order</p>



# Create a **Calming and Predictable** Environment

- **Designate** specific areas for defined activities/ routines
  - **Clearly label** the areas and storage using color coding or a pictorial system
  - **Post necessary information** such as schedules, examples of child's /student's work, expectations and information for instruction.
- 



## work center

The tasks are color-coded & numbered for independent learning



## **snack center**

**Picture cards of food and drinks are used  
with the "I want" card.**

**Each child's name is on his chair.**



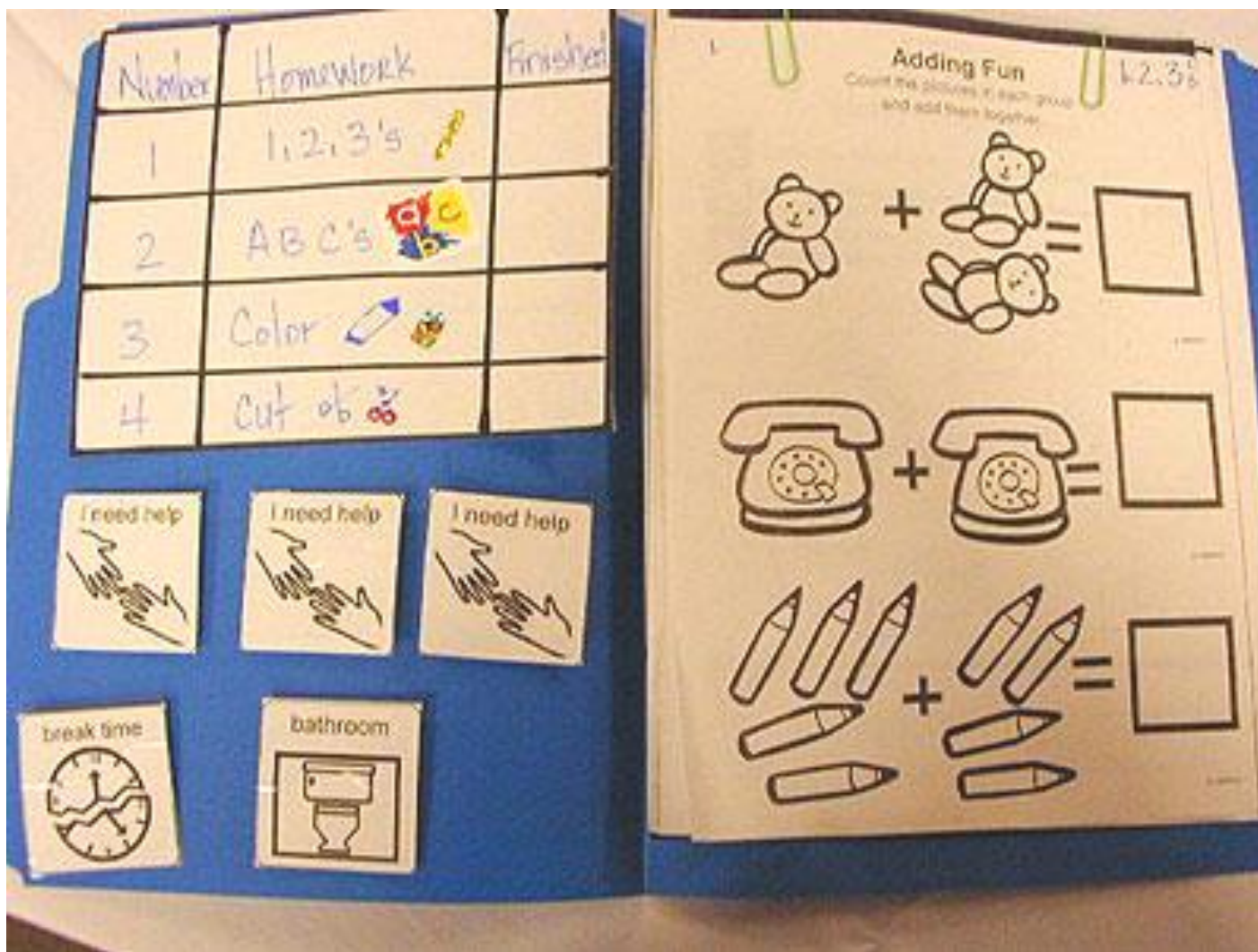
**VS.**



## Toys

Toy shelves stay neat & organized by taping a photo/pic of the toy on the shelf then matching the image with the real thing.





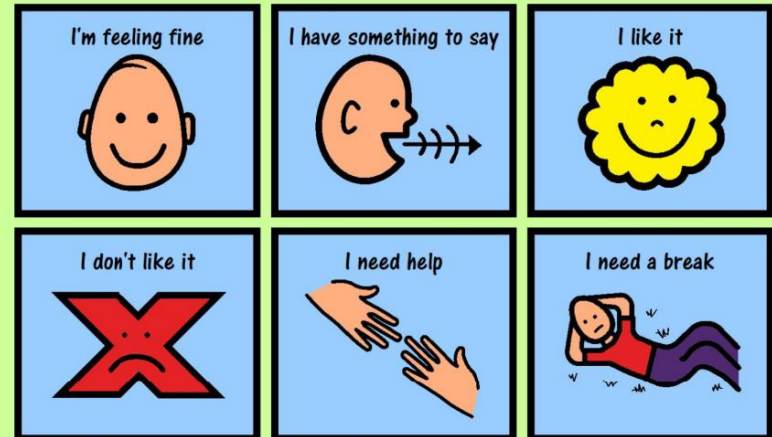
school work communication folder

# School work communication folder

All the information that is needed to get the task done is organized and listed here.

Picture cards for asking help, requesting break, or bathroom are attached with Velcro and available at the bottom

## Holiday Pragmatic Communication Support Cards



The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2010 by Mayer-Johnson LLC. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker™ is a trademark of Mayer-Johnson LLC.

[www.livespeaklove.com](http://www.livespeaklove.com)

# Giving Instructions...

Say/Use symbols for **stop, finish, wait, later**

Tell what can child do...

Say **“Write you name on your work”**

Say **“ Finish the jigsaw”** rather than  
**“ No throwing pieces”**

Say **“Hands down”** rather than **“No hitting”**

Say **“Sit down”** rather than **“No running away”**



# Choice Boards and Menus

I want



big wheel



golf



trampoline



bubble blower



sand and water table



sidewalk chalk





Mini schedules help to target events or tasks in the daily schedule where a child has difficulty.

It breaks a larger task down into smaller steps which are easier for a child to handle.



Mini schedules helps to target certain events or tasks in the daily schedule where a child has difficulty.

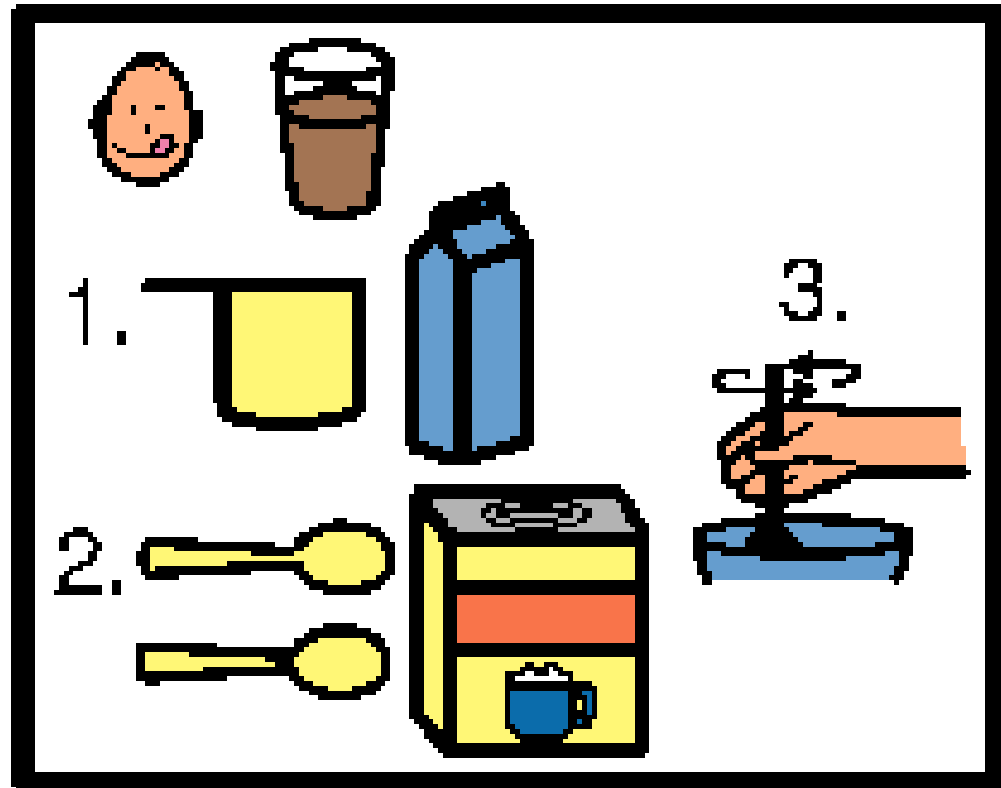
It breaks a larger task down into smaller steps which are easier for a child to handle.



Smaller steps to Complete the entire task .

# Steps to make \_\_\_\_\_

recipe







# For work activities

✓ Have a **schedule of sequence** of activities to be completed

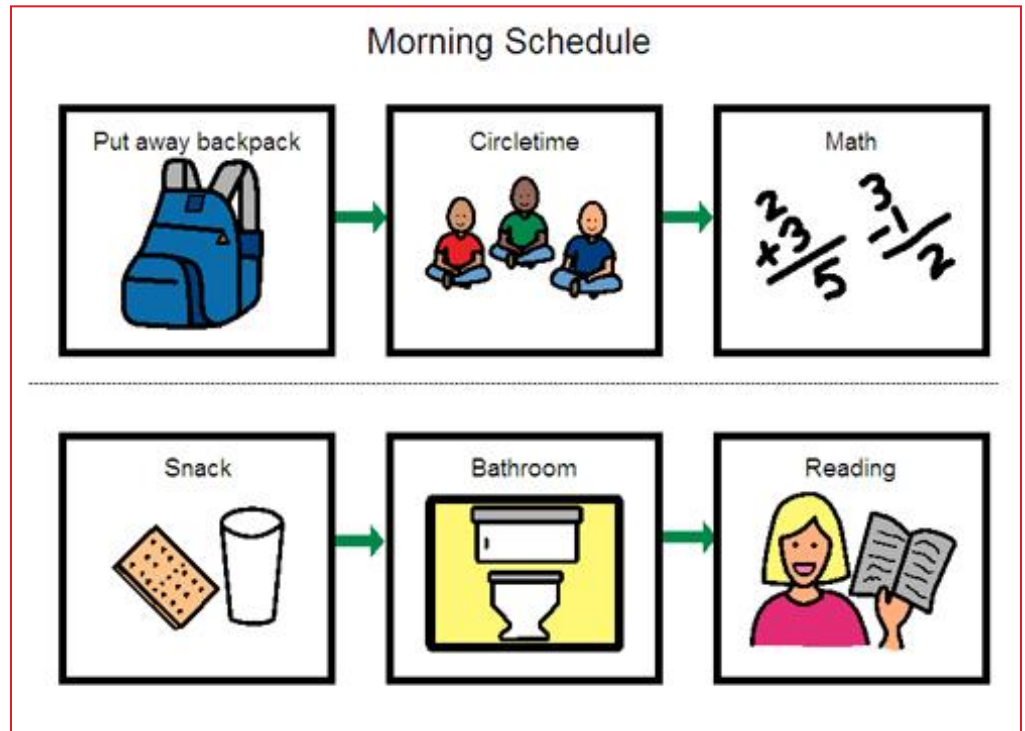
(in pictures, written word, photo)

# For work activities

Let child / student

- ✓ tick of/ turn over/put completed items in box, etc

- ✓ Break activities down into small, manageable tasks





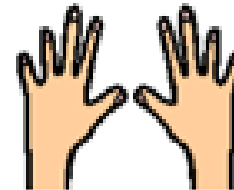
**A people locator helps your child anticipate who will be with her during given activities or times.**



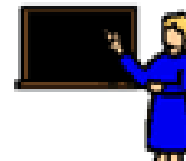
## Class Rules



**Quiet  
Voice**




**Hands to  
Yourself**



**Listen to  
Teacher**

**Visually represented important rules  
like the 'no biting'**



After School	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
snack		X	X				
finish homework		X	X				
make bed		X	X				
30 minutes reading		X					
You EARNED FREE TIME!							

Ten activities can be written down the left side with days of the week across the top. This is helpful for keeping users organized and independent

# Great websites to download free visuals and lots of ideas:

[www.usevisualstrategies.com](http://www.usevisualstrategies.com)

[www.connectability.ca](http://www.connectability.ca)

Google images

[www.trainland.tripod.com](http://www.trainland.tripod.com)

[www.picsearch.com](http://www.picsearch.com)

[www.symbolworld.com](http://www.symbolworld.com)

[www.quia.com/pages/havefun.html](http://www.quia.com/pages/havefun.html) (language  
games)

[www.card.ufl.edu](http://www.card.ufl.edu)

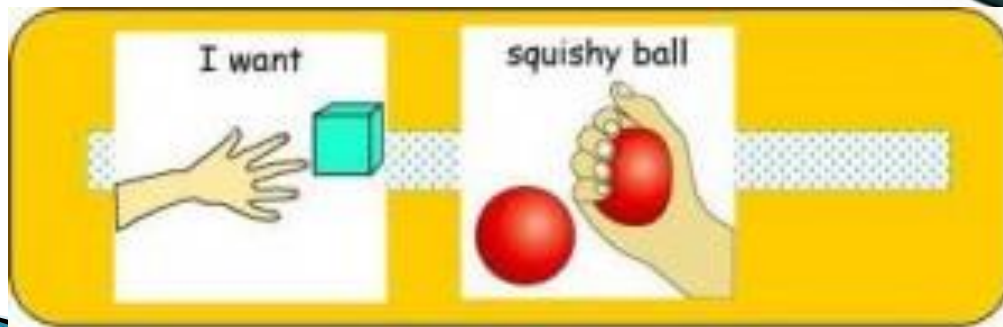
[www.do2learn.com](http://www.do2learn.com)

[www.visualaidsforlearning.com](http://www.visualaidsforlearning.com)

[www.speakingofspeech.com](http://www.speakingofspeech.com)

# Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

is the application of assistive technology through visual language systems to create and/or enhance existing communication modalities in individuals with disabilities.





Structured behavioral intervention program to teach use of visual-graphic symbols for communication

- Teaches to make requests by handing/ exchanging symbols for desired items
- Helps increase verbal speech reported



picture exchange





# Video Time



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

