

HOW AND WHY TO USE VISUALS

Visuals include real objects, parts of objects or remnants (e.g. empty packet of sultanas), photographs of the actual object, photographs of similar objects, drawings, computer generated symbols (e.g. Boardmaker, Pics for PECS) and written words.

Why Use Visuals?

Up to 80% of families have their child's (with autism spectrum disorder) hearing test first because of delays in language development and not responding to verbal cues. The hearing test normally shows no problems, the issue is actually difficulty processing or understanding language.

This is why visuals are very important to use in a child's daily life to support verbal language.

9 REASONS *to Use Visuals*



Can be referred back to



Remains constant long after the word has been said



Allows for slow processing



Prepare for transition



Support all students learning



Visual Schedules promote independence as they know what to do next



Transferable between home and school



Show clearly what is expected



Reduce Anxiety

HOW TO USE VISUALS

- 1 **Always couple visuals with speech.** They are an aid to help you understand spoken language, not a substitute.
- 2 **Be eclectic.** You do not need to only use one type of visual.
- 3 **Always print the name of the visual,** to ensure consistent language (is it a mug or a cup?) and to aid in long term literacy.
- 4 **To be valuable visuals must be accessible.** Keep them near where you are likely to use them – e.g. sticking the finish symbol on the door frame in every room means one is always available.
- 5 **Wait!** Like all communication you need to **allow the child time to process and point.**
- 6 **Persevere.** Your child may need many trials before they make the connection between the visual and the real object.
- 7 **Speak to your speech therapist/pathologist about introducing your child to PECS** (Picture Exchange Communication System).
- 8 **Visuals will continue to be of value to your child** even after they have learnt to talk – they will be able to check back to them whenever unsure.
- 9 **Remember most people use visuals** – shopping lists, diaries, etc., are all visuals!

Excerpt from "The Early Years", page 19, 20.



Remember

A picture is worth 1000 words!

EARLY CHILDHOOD COURSE



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- › Understanding Different Learning Styles
- › Talking to Families/Carers about Diagnosis
- › How to use Different Ways of Teaching
- › How to help children develop - communication (verbal & non verbal)
- › Stages of Play How to create an inclusive play program
- › Meltdowns & Tantrums
- › 3 Steps to Positive Behaviour Support

ENROL NOW