

The Bridge London Outreach Service

A Guide to Visual Communication

Many children with autism find it difficult to understand spoken language and routines. This can make them feel anxious. Using visuals can help children understand what is happening around them and reduce anxiety.

Basic Needs Board/Keyrings

One or more photos/ symbols on each page

Reduces anxiety - answers 'What's next?' as adult shows child before doing activity

Increases participation – child can point to a picture to ask for something

Develops pre-literacy skills – makes the link between something on paper and something real.



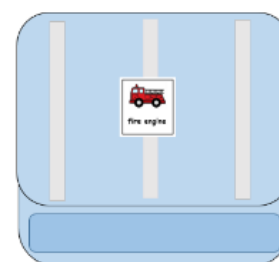
(Pecs) Picture Exchange Communication System

Structured Speech and Language Therapy programme

Gives a reason to communicate – the child really wants the favourite toy.

Gives the child a voice – symbols in place of words.

Teaches the value of communication – the child has a meaningful reward.



Choice Board

Symbols can be removed, child chooses activities and rewards

Reduces anxiety

Increases motivation to do less favourite activities (circle time, handwriting etc.) when combined with...

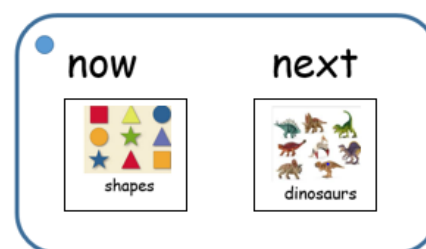


Now and Next Board

Symbols can be removed, child can choose own reward

Reduces anxiety

Increases participation with clear structure: ACTIVITY → REWARD



Visual Timetable

Symbols stay on strip, child can mark progress through the day.

Reduces anxiety

Teaches self-help skills



Visual Rules

Makes it very clear what the child is expected to do

Helps the child to remember the class/school rules

Reduced anxiety

Teaches class rules

