

Using Visual Helpers in the Preschool Setting



I hear and I forget.
I see and I remember.
I do and I understand.
- Chinese proverb

Why Do We Use Visual Helpers?



- **Children are visual learners, especially children with ASD.**



- **Make words/ideas permanent – more concrete.**



- **Calming / reduces anxiety**



- **Helps us be clear and predictable (keeps both them and “us” on track).**

Visual Helpers Help Children 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**

Visuals for Own Agenda/Requester

What are the best types of visuals to use at this stage of communication...

Real objects:



Photos:



Package labels:



Making Choices.... SAY IT and SHOW IT!

Apple
Or
Orange ?



Orange =



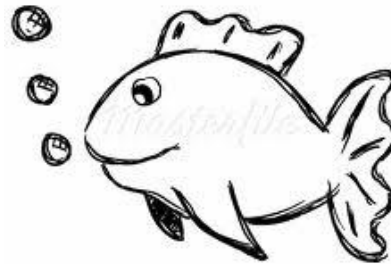
Visual Helpers for Early Communicators & Partners

What are the best types of visuals to use at this stage of communication?

Photos:



Drawings, print:



Goldfish

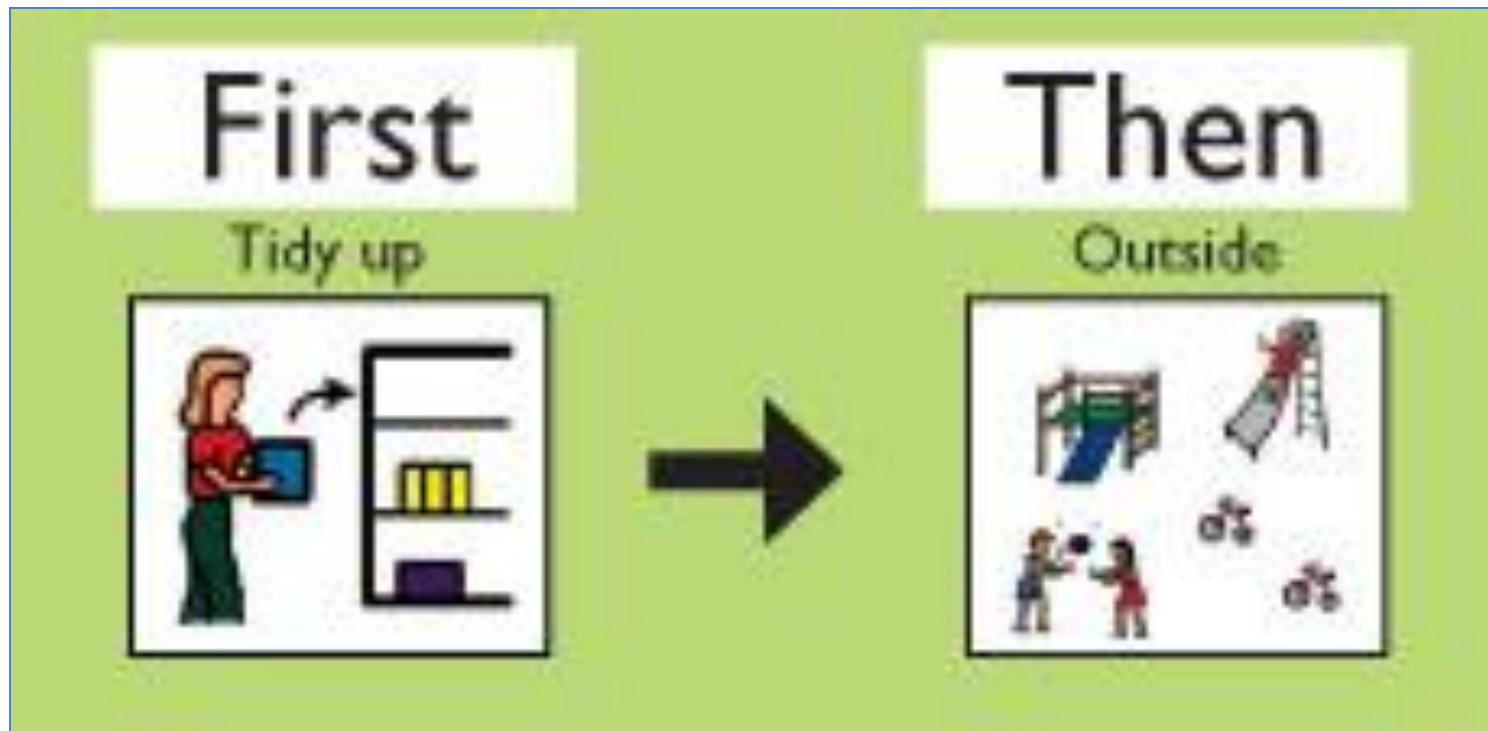
What's Going to Happen next....



Anxiety



Behaviours



Early Communication/ Partner cont...

Schedules:



Self-help boards:



Difficult Behaviours / Events

- A First-Then Board gives a child the ‘heads-up’ that the less preferred event will be short-lived.
- We know that many children learn from the TV so a video of ‘what is expected’ (going down the slide the right way/sharing cars) will help to reinforce the desired behaviour-DON”T SHOW THEM ‘WHAT NOT TO DO’!
- A Social Story should reinforce the ‘expected’ behaviour. Avoid the don’t...

What do you need from us and your support staff to help you in using the visuals more regularly?

Consider starting a “Culture of visual and sign use” versus using it with only one child as needed... then it becomes part of who you are as a quality daycare.... Less learning curves / more integration....

Web Sites for Visuals

- **Google images**
- **www.connectability.ca/visual-engine**
- **www.usevisualstrategies.com**
- **www.do2learn.com**
- **www.trainland.tripod.com**
- **www.picsearch.com**
- **www.symbolworld.com**

YouTube Videos

- Picture Exchange Communication (PECS):
- http://youtu.be/TxNR_jePRj8
- <http://youtu.be/juAfl3BCN7c>

- Using Photo and line drawings:
- <http://youtu.be/XaiHCalHysY>

- Video modeling overview
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZv9sBtQbHE&feature=player_detailpage

Apps for Visuals

- **FTVS HD - First Then Visual Schedule HD**
by Good Karma Applications, Inc
- *a4cwsn.com/2012/04/visual-routine*
(Best Visual Schedule App List)
- *www.tmcsea.org/1/post/2013/01/autism-app-wheel.html*
(Gives a number of apps for children with ASD)

THANK YOU!

- Any questions, please contact me at:
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- Additional Information sources for workshop:
- Hanen “More Than Words” program manual / guide
- Online resources (referenced within slides).