



Speech-Language Pathology

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Developing And Using A Visual Schedule In Your Home

Using Visual Aids in Your Home

- Children on the autism spectrum benefit from use of visual aids in order to assist in their comprehension of spoken language. A visual aid can be paired with spoken language in order to provide a concrete example of what you are saying.
- Visual aids can be used to help your child understand your spoken language, prepare them for a transition from one activity to another, and to help them express themselves. The following information explains how you can make a visual schedule for your child at home.

Making a Visual Schedule for your Home

- Before making a visual schedule, speak with your treating Speech Language Pathologist to determine if your child's visual symbol level is at the object, photograph or picture symbol level. Visual symbols are placed on your child's schedule to represent activities. A visual symbol can be represented through objects, photographs or picture symbols.
- There are many different types of schedules that you can develop at home. The best type of schedule to start with is a first/then board.
- First/then boards represent two activities. The following is an example of how your board will look.

<p style="text-align: center;">FIRST</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Place "visual symbol" here</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">THEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Place "visual symbol" here</p>

- a. First/Then Boards can be made on laminated paper, folders, or cardboard to replicate the above example.
- b. Objects/Photographs/Pictures can be attached with a magnetic or velcro so that that they can be removed after each activity and replaced with a different visual symbol
- c. When using the first/then board keep your language simple and consistent! For example, first we are going to play brush your teeth and then we are going to bed.