

Using Visual Supports

How to use visual supports

Visual supports can help you to communicate with your child and help your child to communicate with you. If children hear and see things at the same time it can support them to understand and learn.

Why they work:

Visual messages are a permanent reminder

They give a verbal and non-verbal message

They include words, signs, symbols and objects

They limit verbal messages to make the visual message clearer

First, ask yourself:

What does my child find difficult?

What does my child like?

What are my child's interests and what is he or she really good at?

What can my child already do?

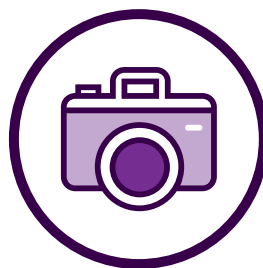
Anyone can make and use visual supports. Here are some ideas for you:



use objects to show your child what to do



use body movements, voice range and gestures



take photos of places and people



put words with pictures



make checklists



social story – use your child or your child's favourite character



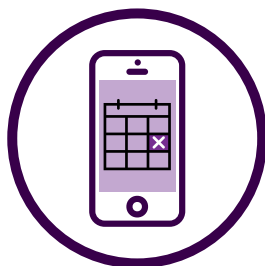
find images on the internet



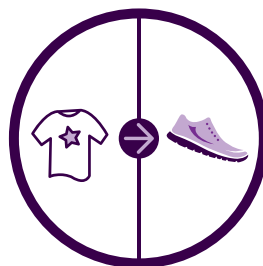
colour code routines and instructions



make a comic book script: draw and tell the story as you go, using stick figures and speech bubbles



apps on phones, i.e. timers, schedules



do one thing at a time with your child

If you are concerned about your child's development, see your doctor or a professional that helps your child. It is better to talk to someone than to 'wait and see'.

Go to positivepartnerships.com.au

The Positive Partnerships initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the Helping Children with Autism Package. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.