Visual Supports

What are VISUAL SUPPORTS?

According to the Hume (2008), presenting information from the National Research Council (2001), "Visual supports are any tool presented visually that supports an individual as he or she moves through the day." Visual supports come in a wide variety of formats, some examples include pictures, written words, objects within the environment, maps, labels, schedules, arrangement of the environment/visual boundaries, scripts, timelines, and organizational systems.
http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/content/visual-supports

Why use VISUAL SUPPORTS with individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?

Research has shown evidence that individuals with ASD often times develop stronger visual skills than auditory skills. Visual supports help to provide concrete, more permanent messages that improve the likelihood that the individual is able to process the information and then act accordingly. Visual supports provide clear messages of expectations and support the communication skills of individuals with ASD.

When have VISUAL SUPPORTS been effective?

- Transition within an activity
- Transition between activities
- Social interactions
- Choice Making
- Self management in daily living skills
- On-task behavior
- Reducing tantrums
- Increasing compliance

This document was compiled by the Kentucky Autism Training Center. Information about VISUAL SUPPORTS was retrieved and synthesized from the sources cited above. For additional information, please contact the KATC at (502) 852-4631 or katc@louisville.edu.

Some VISUAL SUPPORTS Your Child May Encounter

FIRST--THEN:
This is a system that works as a visual reminder for an individual as to their expectations;
FIRST_____THEN_____; The 'THEN' is always a preferred activity, item, events, etc.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uen98aGQO1A

Schedules:
* Whole day   * Within activities
* Special events   * Whole group
* Individualized
--Reinforcement is built into the schedule
-- Always includes preferred & unpreferred
-- Object, symbol, photo, picture, line-picture, written word
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaiHCalHvsY&feature=channel

Choice Making:
* Activities
* Whole class AND Individual
* Utilized anytime, any setting
* Food Options

Communicating "NO":
* Activities   * Toys
* Safety
* Events

Calendars:
* Weekly   ** Monthly
* Announce special events
* Inform on what to expect

Task Completion:
* Short to long activities
* Follows a sequence
* Reinforcement built -in

Web Resources

National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders
http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/content/visual-supports
The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)
http://www.autisminternetmodules.org
Using Visual Strategies
http://www.usevisualstrategies.com/VisualStrategiesInformation.aspx
University of Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities "Visual Supports"
http://card.ufl.edu

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