

## Visual Supports

### What are Visual Supports (VS)?

Visual supports are concrete cues that are paired with, or used in place of, a verbal cue to provide the learner with information about a routine, activity, behavioral expectation, or skill demonstration. Visual supports might include: pictures, written words, objects, arrangement of the environment, visual boundaries, schedules, maps, labels, organization systems, timelines, and scripts.

### Why use Visual Supports?

Learners with ASD struggle with verbal instructions of what to do or what will happen next. Visual supports present information in a way that helps learners with ASD focus on key elements. They can increase on-task behavior and foster the independence of learners with ASD.

### What can VS do?

Visually demonstrate a message, task or expectation. They can decrease the assistance from the school staff. They can enhance social skill development of the learner and they can address behaviors that may impede learning.

### Things to consider before you start using VS?

- Identify when visual supports should be used, think about activities and events that occur throughout the day and what behaviors or target skills you might want to address.
- Establish a goal for the student
- How will the student learn to use this VS?
- How is this VS going to help support this student?
- Can this VS be utilized in the home setting? the classroom?

### Types of Visual Supports

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Schedule</li> <li>● First and Then</li> <li>● Choice Board</li> <li>● Visual Boundaries</li> <li>● Task Analysis (Forward and Backward)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Timer</li> <li>● If/Then</li> <li>● Saying 'no' and waiting</li> <li>● Volume Chart</li> <li>● Taking Turns</li> </ul> |
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