

12 Visual Aids



INCLUSION IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

TIP SHEET

What are visual aids?

- Visual aids are a communication tool that represent information using symbols, photographs, images, written words, or objects. We all use visual aids in our everyday lives.

Visual aids can help a child to:

- Follow a routine and create structure
- Understand the steps of a task or activity
- Feel safe and reduce feelings of anxiety and frustration
- Express themselves
- Develop independence
- Build confidence

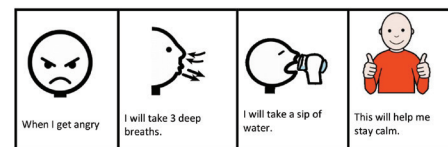
Some examples of visual aids include:

A [Visual Schedule](#) is a picture-based organiser to illustrate step by step instructions for a given task, activity, or routine.



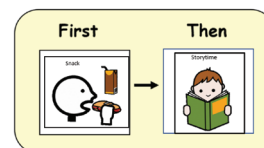
Visual Schedule

A [Social Story](#) is a visual tool that can be used to explain social situations, events and activities. They help to reinforce familiarity, predictability and safety while reducing feelings of anxiety.



Social Story

A [First-Then Board](#) is a visual tool used to display a sequence of tasks. It creates a clear expectation of what the child needs to do first before receiving their more favoured option. This therefore increases motivation to complete the less desired task.



First-Then Board



Cue Cards

[Cue Cards](#) are a small selection of relevant cards (e.g. 5-10) that can be attached to a keychain or lanyard. They support communication by using basic symbols and key phrases. They can be used as visual reminders or to support verbal instructions. They are especially useful when facilitating groups.

A [Communication Board](#) displays symbols, pictures or photos that a child can point to, gesture or blink at, to communicate with those around them. These are usually customised to the individual user with assistance from a speech pathologist.



Communication Board

Additional Resources

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/autism/therapies-guide/visual-supports>

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/atnair-p-visual-supports-and-autism>