



VISUAL HELPERS

Choice Board



Choice Board

A choice board shows the choices available to your child. A Choice Board may display picture or object or symbol or printed word choices depending what is most meaningful for your child.. There may be 2 or more choices on the Board, (4 is recommended maximum). The visuals are attached to the Board by Velcro, they can be removed easily to encourage your child to bring/give the visual to you to communicate their choice.

A Choice Board may show available choices, for instance:

- o Choice of activities
- o Choice of toys
- o Choice of songs
- o Choice of places
- o Choice of food

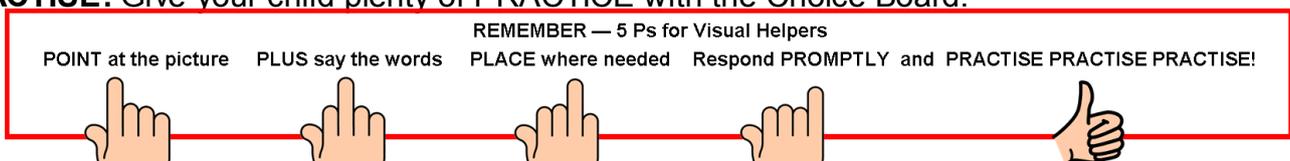
Why we use a Choice Board

A Choice Board can **HELP** children with communication difficulties

- Express a preference
- Make a request
- Understand spoken words
- Pay attention
- Know what choices are available
- Be more independent
- Start off communication themselves

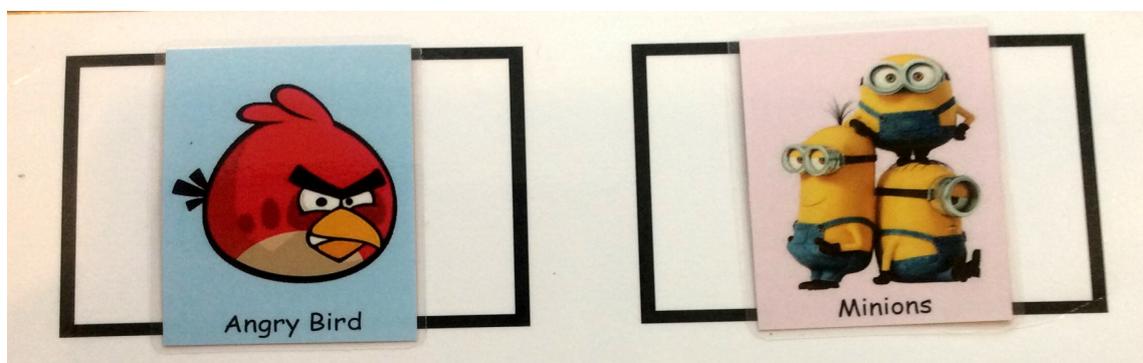
How to use a Choice Board — The 5 Ps for Visual Helpers

- POINT:** Make a clear POINTing gesture to direct your child's attention to the Choice Board visuals
PLUS: PLUS say the words to match the visuals, same words each time and keep language simple.
PLACE: Have the Choice Board in the PLACE you need it for instance on the toy box/next to the TV.
PROMPTLY: When your child makes their choice — respond PROMPTLY.
PRACTISE: Give your child plenty of PRACTICE with the Choice Board.



Choice Board—Top Tips:

- Teach your child how to make a choice using the Choice Board by modelling it yourself first. Then show the Board to your child and encourage them to make their own choice—give your child plenty of time.
- Your child can make a choice by pointing to the item (finger pointing or eye pointing), taking the item off the Board or naming the item.
- Model the language to the child to match the choice they make, e.g. “you want to paint” “you want grapes” etc
- If your child only has a few activities they like, you can encourage them to try new choices by using the Choice Board — first, they will choose their favourite activity off the board; then, this activity is removed from the board, prompting the child to choose a different activity next time.



Other ideas

- Use a red cross “not today” pocket to show that a choice is not available.
- If your child is motivated by electronic devices, consider using photos on your camera/phone/tablet and there are also Choice Board apps available.

