

Understanding visual supports

What can educators do?

Visual supports are tools that are used to increase our understanding of language, the environment, expectations and provide structure and support



Educators



- ▶ What visual supports am I using to support children's communication?
- ▶ How can visual supports be used with all children?
- ▶ What makes visuals meaningful to the children in the care environment setting?
- ▶ When using visual supports, what other type of prompts might I need to use?

Tip: Consider how visuals and real objects can be used in combination with clear, concise verbal cues.

Knowledge



- ▶ Am I confident to use visuals? Do I need to build my capacity to use them effectively?
- ▶ Who can I connect with to build my knowledge and capacity around implementing visual supports?
- ▶ Are there educators in my service who have strengths using visual supports? E.g. key word signing, picture cues, social stories.

Tip: Connect with Inclusion Professionals, parents and therapists to share knowledge, experience and practical strategies.

Family/Community



- ▶ What visuals are the family using at home, and have we implemented these at our service to support consistency?
- ▶ Are the visual supports being used in a way that is respectful of the families' values and beliefs?
- ▶ Are there community supports the family is accessing that could support my capacity to implement visual strategies effectively?

Tip: A strong relationship with a child will support communication using visuals.

Children's Inclusion



- ▶ How can visual supports be used to build a child's independence?
- ▶ Are visual supports being used to build communication and connections between peers?
- ▶ How are visuals used with the whole group to ensure that all children are building their capacity to communicate with their peers?
- ▶ How do children access and use visual supports in both the indoor and outdoor environments?

Tip: Consider the amount of visual stimulus in the environment.

Where can I access support?

Talk with your Inclusion Professional

Phone 1800 811 035 Visit www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au

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