

Handy Tips for Using Now and Next Boards

Do think about which transitions during the day the child you are supporting may need help to engage with so that you can have the corresponding symbols readily available at these times.

Do persevere. It might take some time for the child to become familiar with and understand this method of communication.

Do make sure that the 'next' activity is available and is provided quickly following engagement in the non-preferred activity.

Do make sure you understand the child's interests so that you can ensure that 'next' is something motivating to them.

Do laminate and velcro the resources so that they last. This will save you lots of time in the long run!

Do reduce your language.

Do use in a variety of situations to support the child you are working with. Examples could be:

- Coat first then Garden
- Wash hands first then Lunch
- Puzzle first then Trains

Don't use the now and next board as a 'snapshot' of the daily routine. You can use your class/setting timeline for this purpose.

If the child is reluctant to engage with this method of communication try using **backward chaining** (see backward chaining video and accompanying handy tips).