



Hancock County Autism Team



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Preschool Speech Pathologist

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Speech Pathologist

VISUAL SUPPORTS

Do you have a calendar that you write things on to help organize your life?

Do you have a list of things to do on your desk or refrigerator?

Do you ever make checklists of errands that you need to run and cross them off as you complete them?

Have you ever pointed to a picture in an advertisement or a menu to show someone what you want?

All of these things are examples of visual supports. "Visual supports" is a broad term that refers to the use of any type of visual tool (photos, drawings, words, or numbers) that enables a learner to keep track of daily activities and to develop an understanding of time and sequences (Koyama & Wang, 2011; Twachtman-Cullen, 1995).

7 Reasons To Use Visual Schedules

This entry was posted in *Speak Freely Therapy Blog*—to view the full article go to <http://speakfreelytherapy.ca/speak-freely-therapy-blog/seven-great-reasons-to-use-visual-schedules/>

- 1. A universal skill:** For individuals with special learning needs, it is imperative that they grasp the concepts related to using a schedule early in life so they can "keep up" in the world.
- 2. Easing transitions and reducing anxiety:** Having the sequence of events clearly depicted visually helps individuals to anticipate changes and as a result reduces (and sometimes eliminates) anxiety and difficulty with transitions.
- 3. Learning time concepts:** Outlining information in a visual format enables individuals to clearly see the sequence of events.
- 4. Reinforcing verbal instructions:** Another common issue is that individuals may hear and understand a verbal message, but their auditory memory to retain that information is not strong and as a result they forget parts or what was said. Think about something as simple as a grocery list...would you like someone to just tell you the list of ten things you need to get at the store, or would you rather have a list in hand? Although we understood everything they told us, it is stressful to try to remember all of it without visuals to back it up. For many of the individuals we support, they lack the skills to ask for clarification or repetition, which can result in poor follow-through of instructions, tuning out, or challenging behaviors.
- 6. Contributing to executive functions:** Visual schedules are one of many important tools that help individuals develop the ability to plan what needs to be done and complete tasks in an appropriate sequence.
- 7. Supporting conversational skills:** Visual schedules are excellent tools for developing the ability to talk about events.

Resources

The point of view of a child is not always easily understood, especially that of one with Autism.



However, using their perspective in a video can help teach rules and lessons to children with Autism. Award-winning author, Teresa Garland MOT, OTR/L will demonstrate how to create and use visual tools, like videos, when working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in this FREE CE seminar– **Visual Tools for Children with Autism**. Watch as Teresa demonstrates everything from simple visual schedules and first/then boards, to picture stories, etc. FREE 1.5 CE hours. Watch at: <http://autismgarland.kajabi.com/sq/50424-visual-tools>

ASD STRATEGIES
IN ACTION

Real-Life, Practical, Evidence-Based Online Video Training Program

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Strategies in Action gives families and service providers tools to ensure they are equipped to effectively care for, support, educate, employ, or work with individuals on the autism spectrum. It is organized by age—from early childhood through young adulthood—and by strategy to allow easy access to the information that is most relevant to the user.

While practitioners will earn professional development hours and a certificate upon completion, the program is designed so that every user can gain knowledge and implement the skills learned immediately. This mobile friendly program can be found at autismcertificationcenter.org

Additional visual support modules are available through OCALI via autisminternetmodules.org



AUTISM VISUAL SUPPORTS TRAINING ~ Tuesday, March 15, 2016 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

PRESENTER: Linell Weinberg, MSW, Executive Director of The Autism Society of NW OH

LOCATION: Hancock County Educational Service Center•7746 CR 140•Findlay OH 45840

This training is geared towards both regular and special education staff. Discussion will include why visuals are used, assessment before creating visuals, and what to consider when making them. Several forms of visual supports will be shared that can be used in the classroom setting.

Pre-registration required ~ Attendance limited to 30 participants

To register contact: Laurie Betscher, Parent Mentor
419.422.7525 x 105 or betscherl@hancockesc.org

Certificates of Attendance will be available

Linda Hodgdon, M.Ed., CCC-SLP is a Speech-Language Pathologist who is internationally known as a pioneer in developing the use of visual strategies to support communication for students with the communication, behavior or social skills challenges that are common in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Visit Linda's website and sign up for her newsletter:

<http://usevisualstrategies.com/visual-strategies/what-are-visual-strategies-for-autism/>

