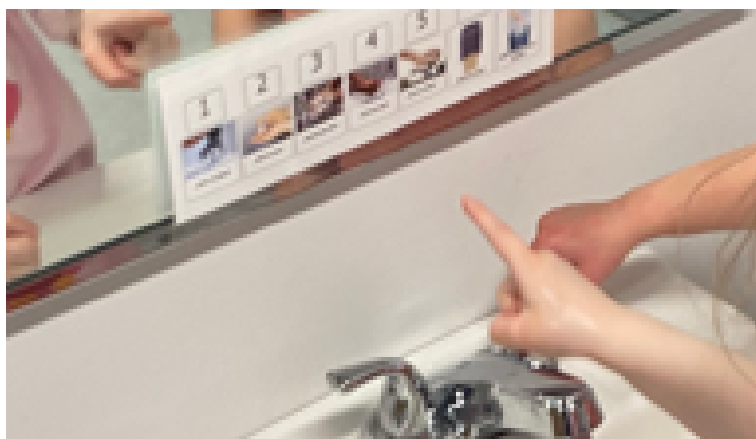


INCLUSION STRATEGIES & TOOLS

Benefits of Using Visuals with Children

Organized, predictable and secure environments

More independent children



Opportunities for skill development
and self-regulation

All children have the opportunity to
express themselves

Clear routines, transitions and
expectations



Photographs, picture symbols, drawings and words are all types of visual cues that enhance the physical environment to provide clear communication to children.

WHY USE A VISUAL?

- Support skill development. For example: expression, understanding, emotional regulation, self-help skills, play skills, etc.

WHAT VISUALS TO USE:

- Expression: Choice boards or individual photos
- Understanding: Daily Schedule, Monthly Activity Calendar, First/ Then, Group Rules, Labels (e.g., toy bins and cubbies), social scripts, etc.
- Emotional Regulation: “Stop, Look, Listen & Go”, visuals to demonstrate emotions and calming or relaxation techniques.
- Self-help: Visual sequences (e.g., dressing, toileting)
- Play Skills: Photo examples of how toys can be used, invitations to play, social stories, etc.

TIPS:

- Post visuals at children’s eye level rather than at the educator’s level.
- Remember to introduce and explain them to the children at circle/ group time and during learning opportunities, like when engaging in free play.
- Communication occurs in a variety of ways! Pair visuals with spoken words, gestures and sign language.
- Start small and build up. Begin with one or two visuals.
- Model the use of visuals often and consistently.

**We all benefit from being given reminders and
we all learn in unique ways.**