

SEN Early Years Inclusion Service

How to Support Making Choices



Examples of Choice Making Using Visuals

The following provides examples of choice making visuals that you may find helpful. These are ranked in order of difficulty beginning with the use of real objects which are easiest to understand.

We have included a brief explanation of what is involved with each example to help you decide which may be most appropriate for your child.

We have also included some resources in this section which you can either print or draw out for use at home. We would encourage you not to feel that printed resources are better. We hope you will see in the final example at the end of this section that drawings can be just as effective!

1. Making a choice using objects

Show the child the objects that relate to the choice they are making, for example what activity they want to do.

In this picture, the child has been given 2 choices using objects – Bubbles or Mr. Potato-Head



In this next example using real objects, the level of difficulty is higher as the choice for the child has been increased to 4 objects



2. Making a choice using True Object Based Icons – known as TOBIs

A TOBI is simply a photograph of the object used in place of the object itself. The photograph used for a TOBI should be the same size as the actual object making the connection for the child between the two much easier to make.

TOBIs can be used on a choice board or on their own if you do not have a choice board available.

We have provided choice board templates within the resources section that you can either print out or draw for use at home.



TOBIs for either Bubbles or Mr. Potato-Head using a choice board (2 choices)

TOBIs used on a 4-options choice board



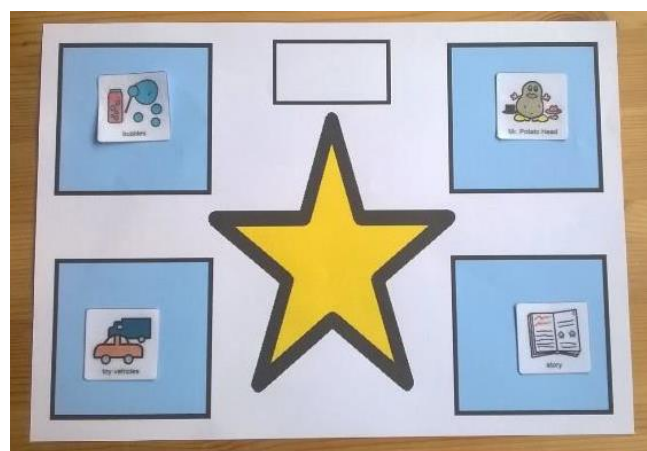
3. Making choice using photo symbols

At this next level, photographs of objects are still being used. The degree of difficulty for the child becomes higher as the photographs used are smaller and are not the same as the real objects they represent.



4. Making choice using picture symbols

This time, instead of photographs, picture symbols are used on a choice board to show the child what is available to choose from, increasing the level of difficulty.



5. Making choices using drawing/writing

If you are unable to access a choice board and symbols, then you can draw the choice on a whiteboard or paper to show what is available. This can be every bit as effective and more flexible as to the choices you may have available to offer.

