



VISUAL



SUPPORTS

MORE INFO?

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Looked what colour carpark level you're on before going into the shops? Stopped at a stop/slow sign? There is a common misconception that the idea of 'visuals' is specific to additional needs only but...Yep - we ALL use visual supports, ALL THE TIME.

What?

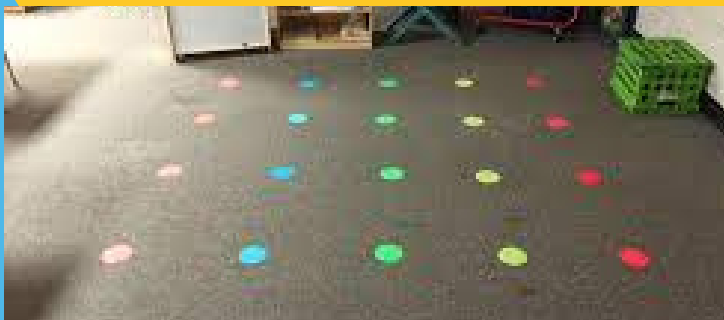
Visual supports are any form of object, picture, drawing, sketch or symbol that gives us information. It might communicate what to do, where to go, how to act, who someone is and various other things. Read on...

Why?

The functions of visual supports are highly varied. They are really useful for a range of reasons.

Some examples include:

- To help people in a group 'think about the same thing.'
- To better understand topics.
- To simplify language or complex ideas (e.g. graphs and diagrams).
- To help us remember people, places, times and events.
- To help us express our own ideas, wants, needs, desires, etc.



How?

Visuals can be created and/or used in many ways. Examples of visual supports we use daily in our work include:

- Images of activities.
- Drawing ideas in thought bubbles.
- Video models on how to do new tasks.
- Labelling draws, cupboards and environmental locations.
- Office Signage.
- Step-by-step craft and science experiments (printed or digital).

We've tried visuals but they didn't work for us.

- As we can see there are many types of visual supports and a targeted and consistent approach needs to be used to find what system is meaningful to you and your child.

We used to use visuals but we don't need them anymore.

- Visuals are 'supports' meaning that they should be available for when they are needed. They shouldn't be seen as a 'level' that someone progresses past.

We don't have time to use visuals

- Visuals don't have to be complex but they need to be available and accessible. Some people will need more individualised visuals (often created alongside a speech pathologist) which we should embrace. Creating a better understanding for all is worth a little bit of extra time right?