

## How to use visual supports

Visual supports can help your child to learn and behave

### Why they work:

- visual messages are a permanent reminder
- they give a verbal and non-verbal message
- they include words, signs, symbols and objects
- they limit verbal messages to make the visual message clearer

### First, ask yourself:

- What does my child find difficult?
- What does my child like?
- What are my child's interests and what is he or she really good at?
- What can my child already do?

### Anyone can make and use visual supports. Here are some ideas for you:

- find images on the internet
- take photos of places and people
- use objects to show your child what to do
- put words with pictures
- use body movements, voice range and gestures
- colour code routines and instructions
- make checklists
- social story – use your child or your child's favourite character
- make a comic book script: draw and tell the story as you go, using stick figures and speech bubbles
- do one thing at a time with your child

If you are concerned about your child's development, see your doctor or visit a child health centre. It is better to have any concern addressed than to 'wait and see'.

Visit [www.positivepartnerships.com.au](http://www.positivepartnerships.com.au) for more ideas and suggestions.

