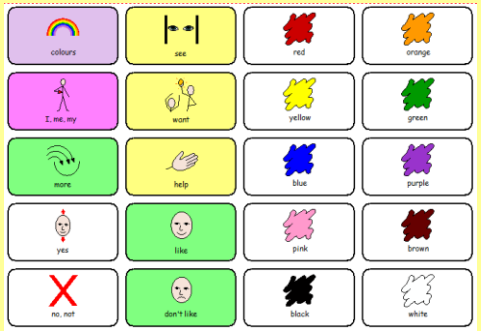
Communication boards



Also referred to as
"Aided Language Boards"

What is a Communication Board?

Communication boards provide a single sheet of symbols usually linked to a topic or specific activity. The user can point with their finger or eyes to words, photos or symbols. They can be modelled by the interactor to support language development.

Communication boards can be used in any environment.

- Follow the same principles of Communication Books but tend to be more specific to an activity or for commenting.
- Using colour coding from Language Through colour
- Core vocabulary is evident on the left hand side of each board.
- Provides opportunities to link symbols to form basic sentences if appropriate.
- Can be used with pupils who don't have a Communication Book to support subject specific vocabulary.
- Can be easily developed for use with switches & communication devices in a similar layout.

Why Use Communication Boards?

- Simple to use and add more vocabulary to develop literacy skills
- **Versatile** – can be used throughout the day in a variety of situations
- Non-verbal students can **be included** into activities
- They are **easy to transport** so can be taken and used in different environments
- **Promote independence** – a student is able to give a message without relying on an adult

Who can use a Communication Board?

- A wide range of pupils for different purposes
- Students who use other augmentative and alternative communication systems such as Makaton signing and High Tech devices
- Students can use the boards to structure more complex language and to support literacy skills.

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Generic Ideas

Commenting

- Indicate "finished/more"
- Indicate that they want something e.g. "I want the ball"
- To reject an idea e.g. "I don't want to"
- To ask for help
- Indicate what they like or don't like
- To describe toys, activities etc. what they can see, e.g. 'I see boat'
- To say how they feel

Requesting

- To choose a toy, activity, song etc.
- To ask for something in a shop
- Ask for help e.g. to complete a puzzle
- To ask for an activity to stop

Give Instructions

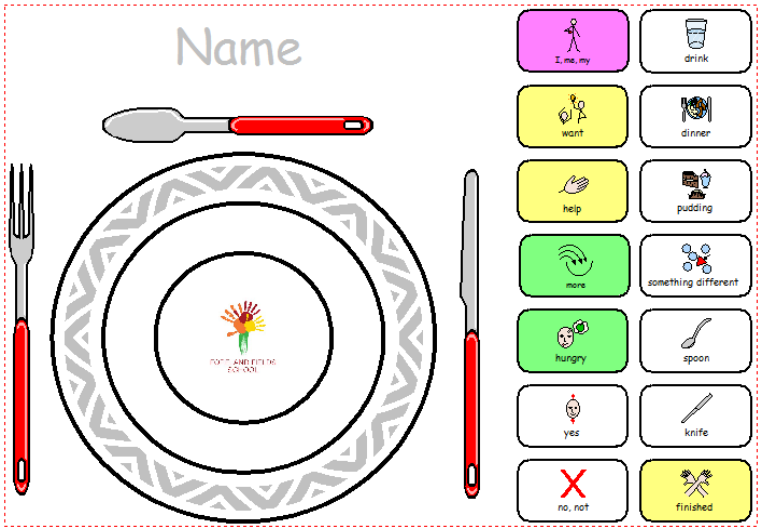
- Ready, Steady, 'Go' games
- Simon Says Games

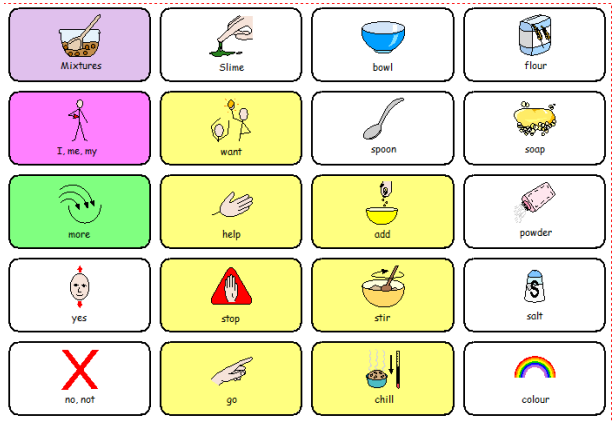
Asking a question

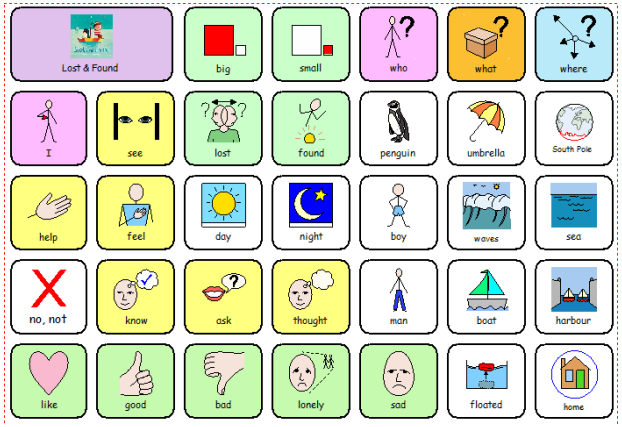
- Where someone is, e.g. 'Where's mummy?'
- For the name of an object, 'What is it?'
- 'Who is it?'

Greetings

- "Good morning" circle/answering the register
- "Good-bye"
- "Thank you"







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Where can I find examples of Communication Boards?

A set of pre-made Communication Boards is included with the Communication Toolkit.

- Art
- Colours (2 levels)
- Cooking
- Days of the week
- Feelings
- Snack Weather

Lunchmats – 3 Stages

Examples of communication boards to support a wide range of curriculum areas are regularly added to the Staff shared area.

Example include

- Stories
- Science activities
- Forest school
- Visit to the zoo
- Toys in the nursery
- Slime ingredients

Templates in a range of different sizes are available to adapt for a range of activities at different ability levels.

Curriculum Ideas

Story time

- To complete a phrase in a repetitive story, e.g. **'**Dear Zoo'
- To say what they see in a picture book, e.g. 'look, ball'
- To request 'more' or 'stop'
- To make a choice
- To give instructions
- To confirm agreement / disagreement with something

Number time

- To say how many
- To name shapes
- To comment on same/different

Music

- To join in with a familiar song, e.g. pointing to 'cow' during Old MacDonald
- To ask for 'more'/'stop'
- To request a song
- To comment on likes/dislikes

Group Activities

- To call someone over
- Indicate "my turn!"
- To join in a role play game
- To name an object in Kim's Game
- To tell another child / group of children to perform an action
- To comment on likes and dislikes