Surviving the Summer
Communication workshop for families

Summer 2026

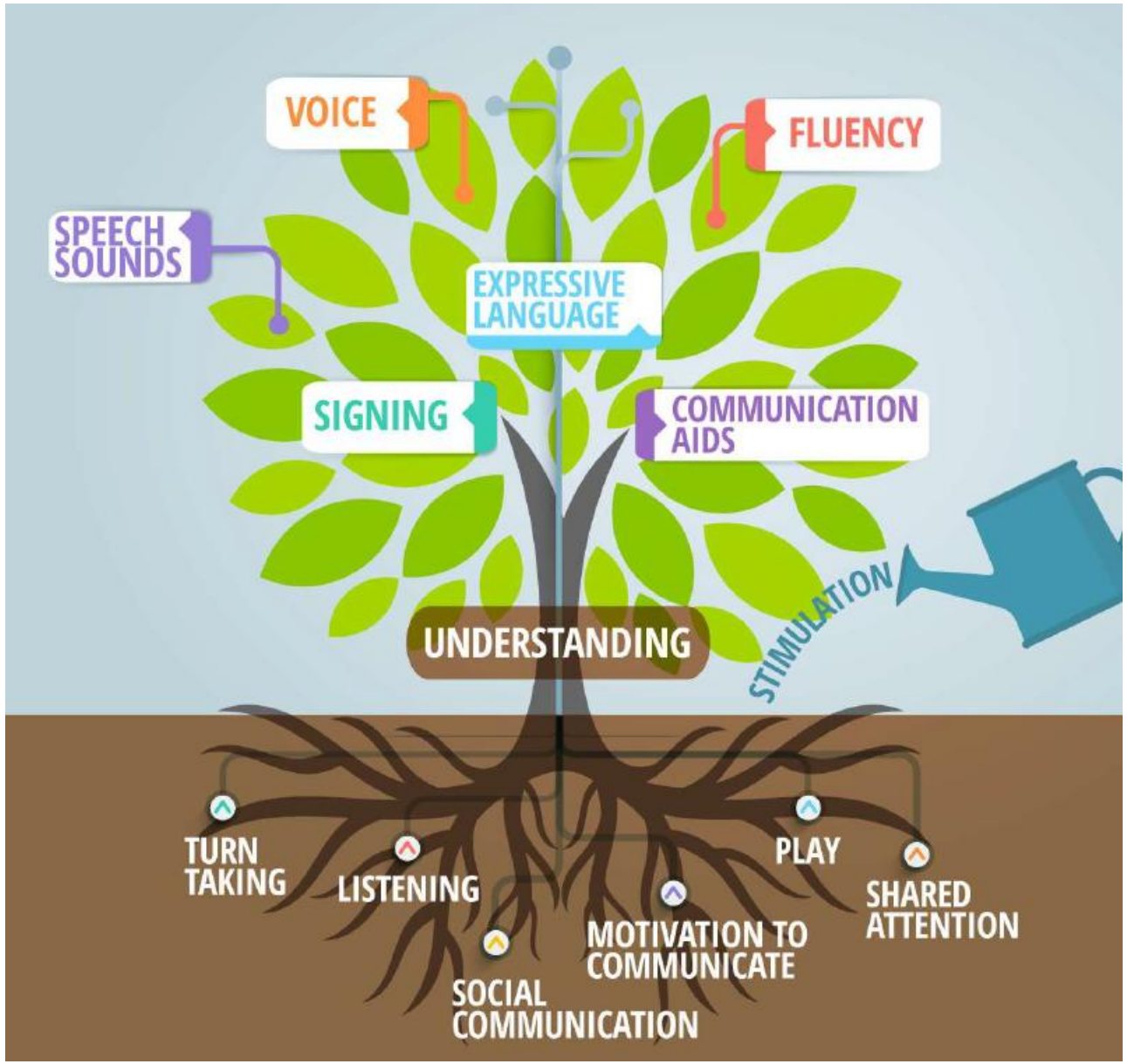
Nikki Gray

Makaton Tutor

SLCN Lead teacher

Why do we communicate?




VOICE
FLUENCY
SPEECH SOUNDS
EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE
SIGNING
COMMUNICATION AIDS
STIMULATION
UNDERSTANDING
TURN TAKING
LISTENING
SOCIAL COMMUNICATION
MOTIVATION TO COMMUNICATE
PLAY
SHARED ATTENTION

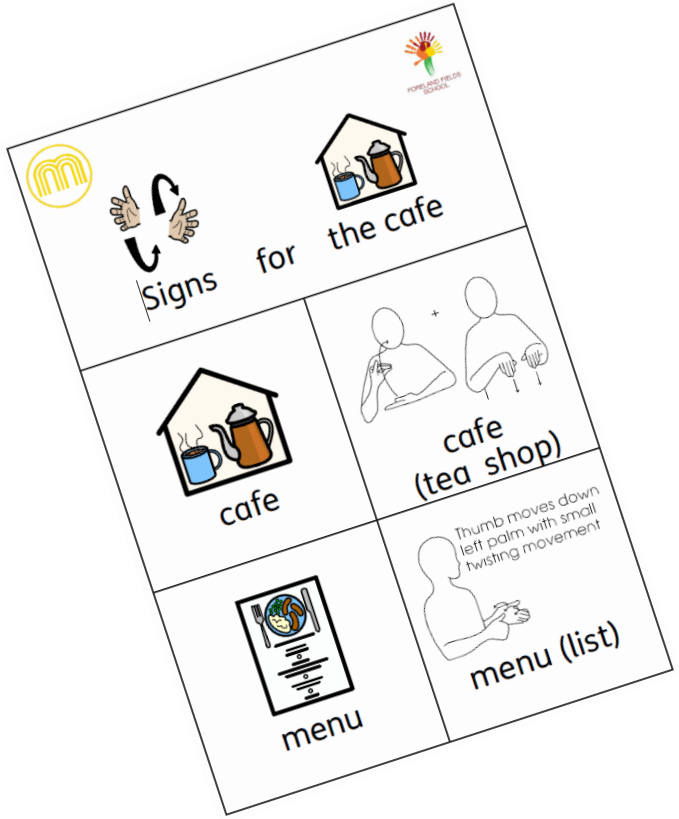
Makaton signs – Core signs

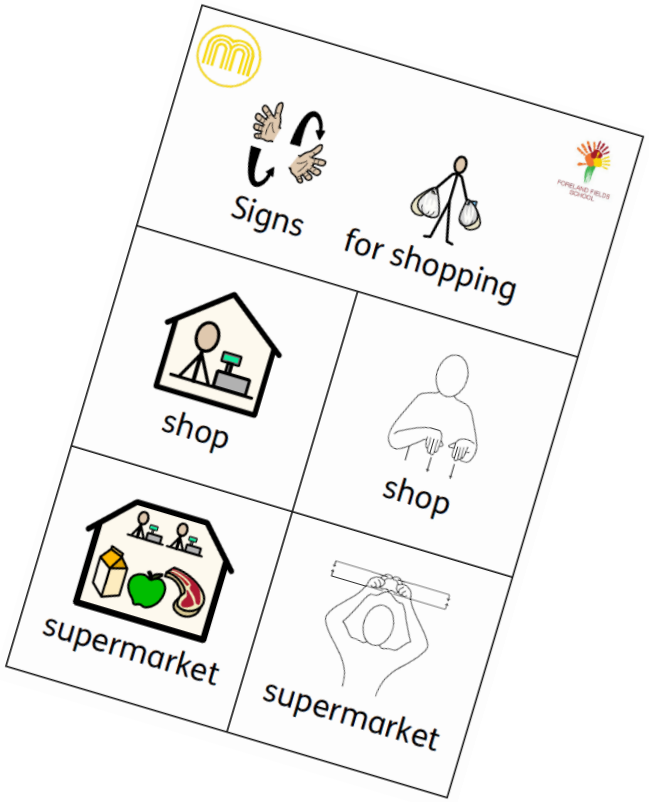
- more
- stop
- help
- finish
- go
- look
- where?
- different
- family
- friend
- like
- share

Keep it core!

Think about how many situations you can use this vocab list for…

Makaton – Signs for…





Communicating about events

How do you prepare your child (and/or yourself) to visit somewhere?

What do you need to consider?
How much do you share with your child?
Is it helpful?

Communicating about events

Share photos of places
or use some examples

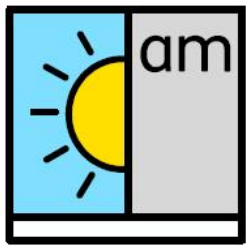
What do **you** need to consider?
How much do you share with your child?
How will you cover "the unexpected."

Social stories

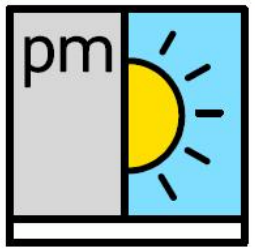
- Social Stories are a social learning tool that supports the safe and meaningful exchange of information between parents, professionals, and people with autism of all ages.
- Social stories can help to reduce anxiety in unfamiliar situations.
- The visual prompts in a social story remain there for the person for as long as they need it.
- In many cases you just need a few simple, visual prompts.

Visual supports

school days



morning



afternoon



Blue class

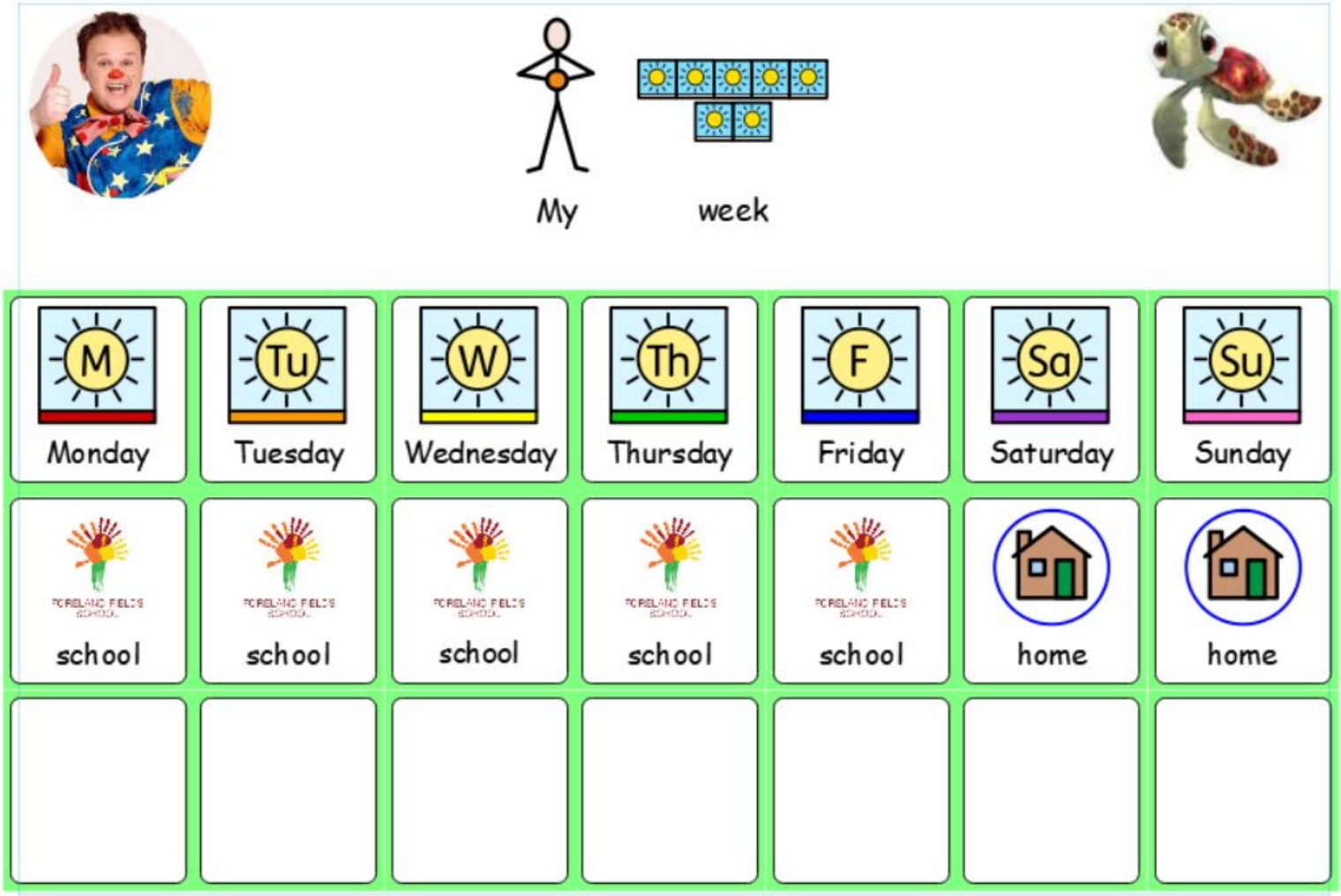


car

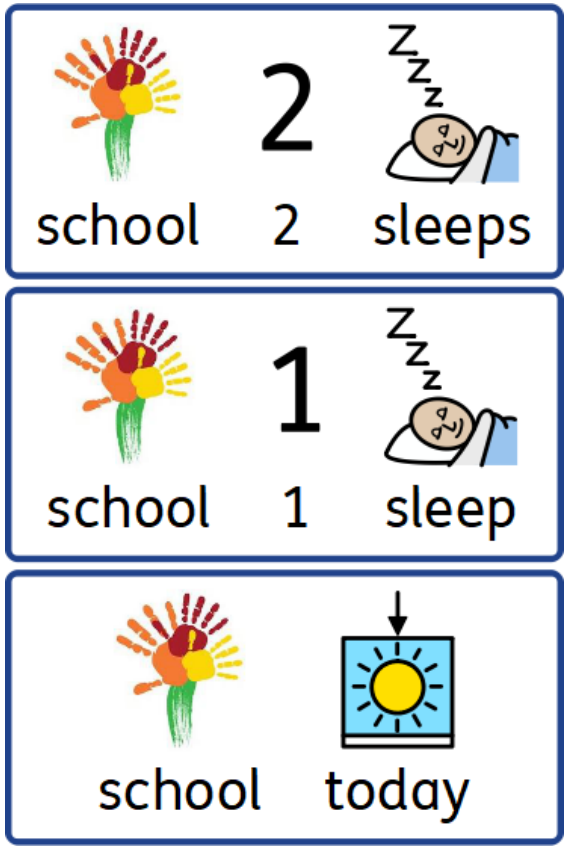


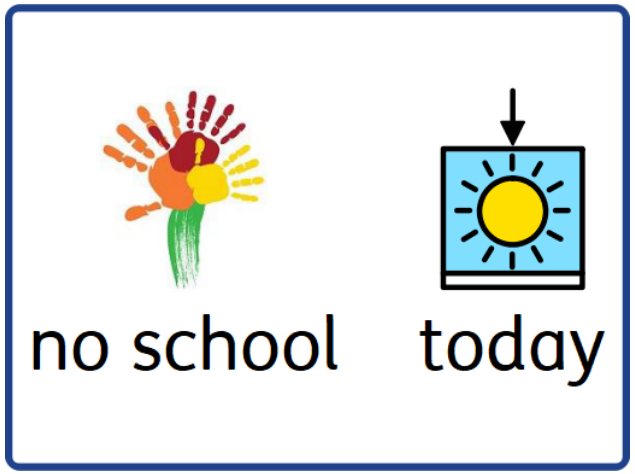
Turtle class

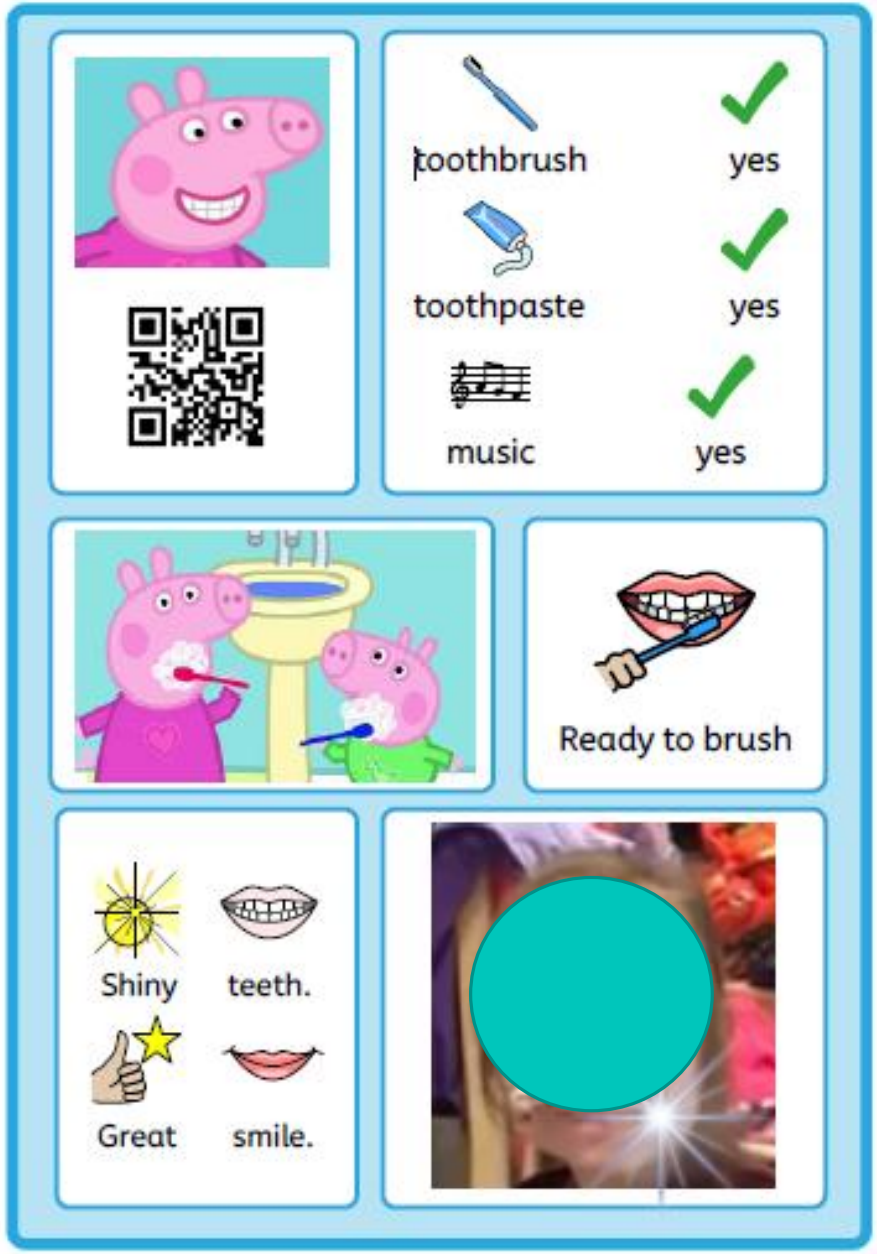
Visual supports



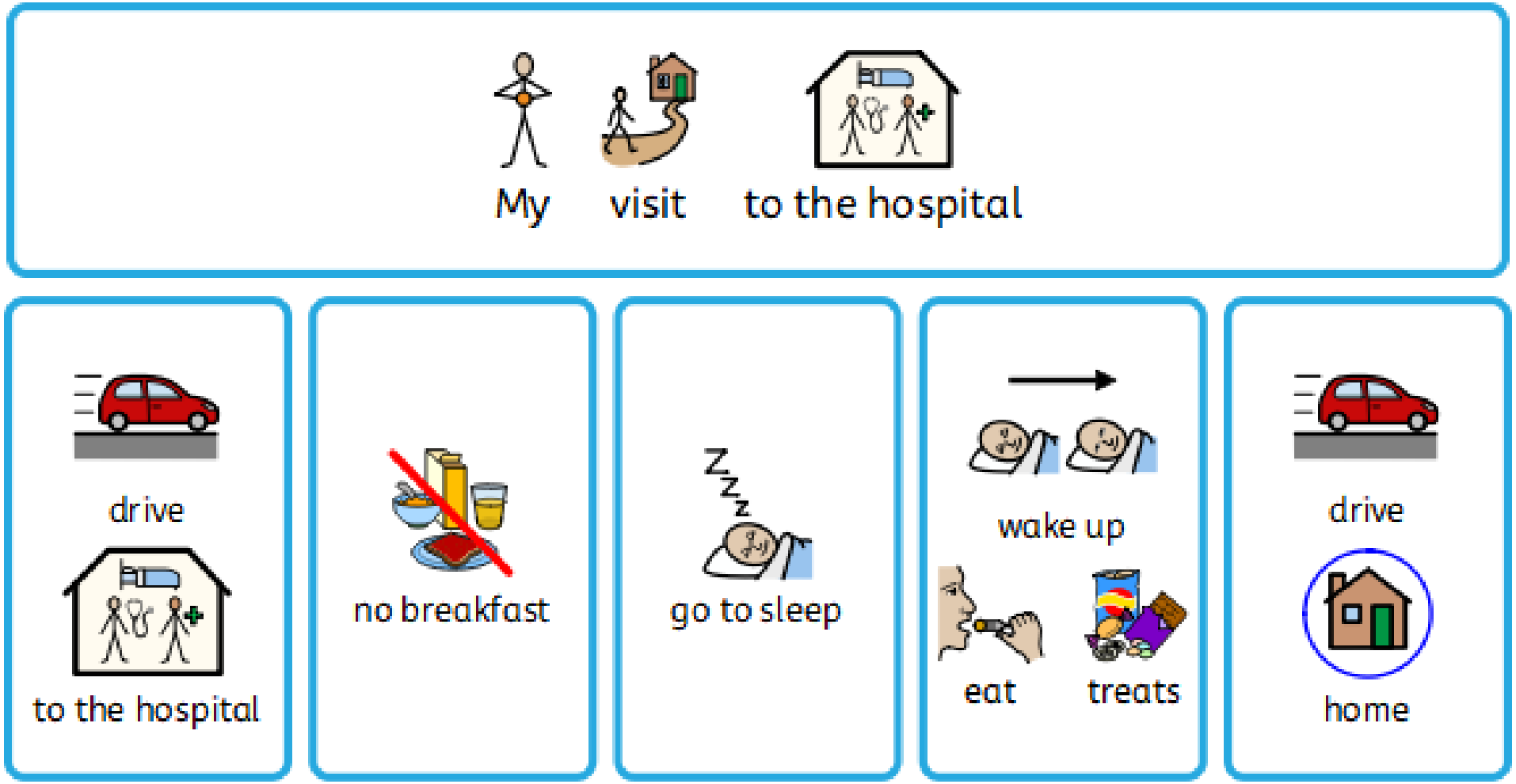
Visual supports



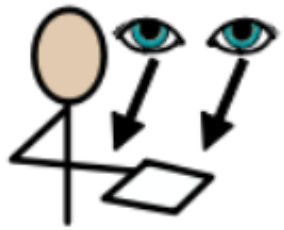




Visual supports



Chat board



show me



come and play



wow!



let's go



help me out



shh be quiet

Visual supports

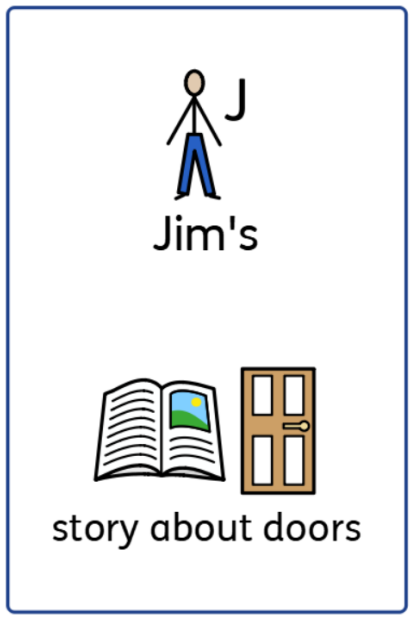
- Check it out online
- Ask for photos

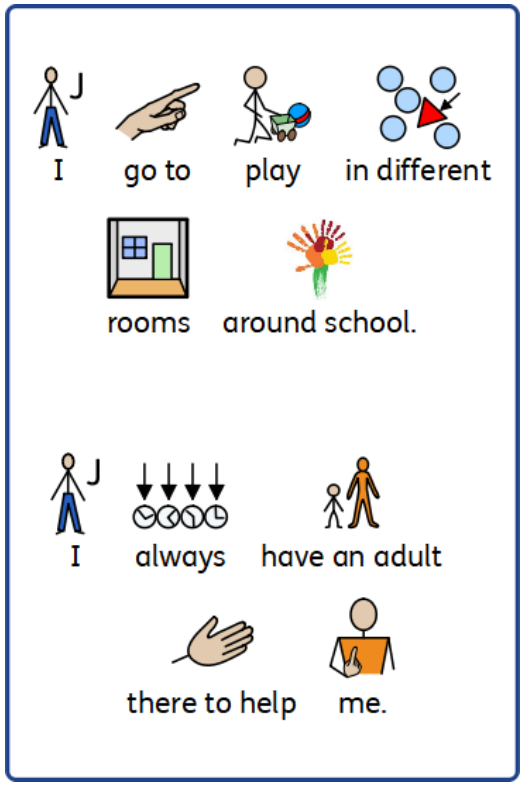


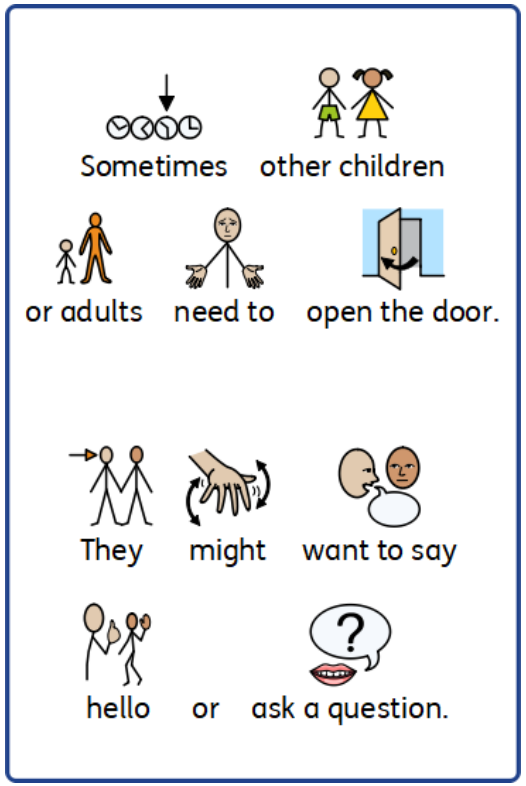


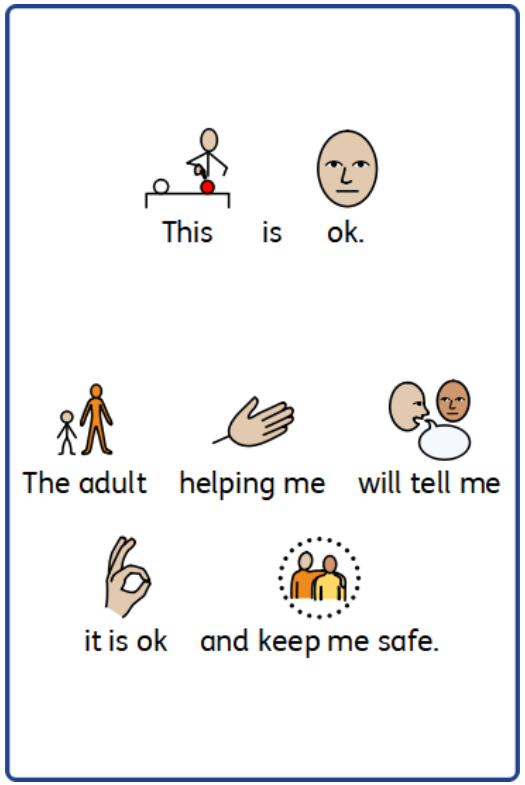


Social stories - examples









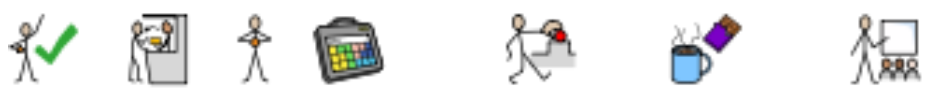

Dad's car engine is broken.


Dad's car cannot drive.


Dad's car need to stay in the car park until the


mechanic comes to fix it.


I can go into school.


I can collect my talker and get hot chocolate in class


The car will be gone later.

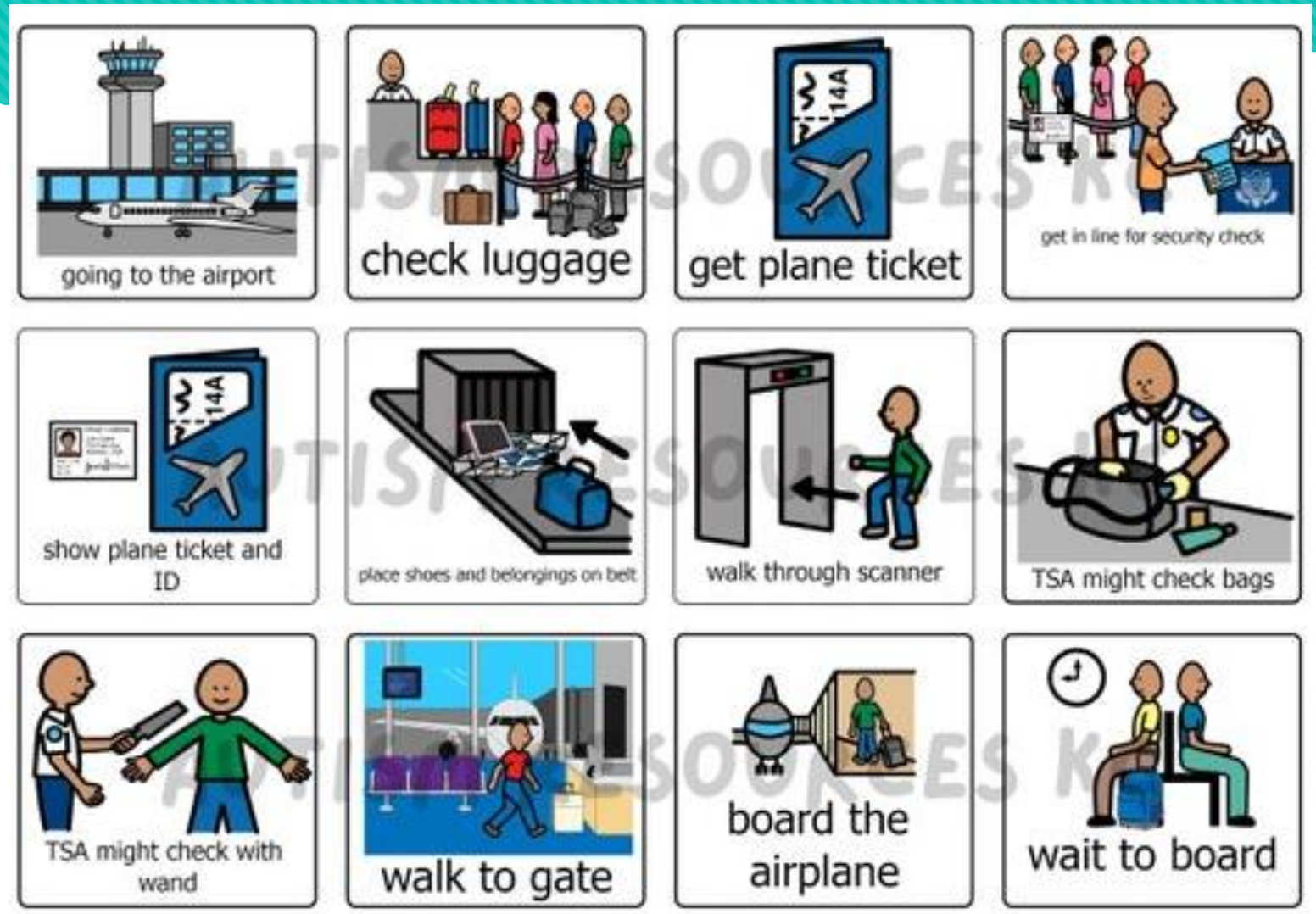
Social stories – examples

Too much energy!	
Sometimes I have lots of energy.	
As I get older I am getting bigger and stronger.	
When I am playing and get over-excited I could hurt someone.	
This could be dangerous for them and me.	

If I have too much energy I can do other things to regulate my energies.	
I can...	
Take myself to a quiet area.	
Run around outside.	
Bounce	

Spend time with my pets if I am at home.	
Ask an adult for other ideas.	
When I am self regulated I can concentrate on the things I like doing.	

Social stories – examples



Visual prompts

now	next

now	next	then

Singing Hands



Additional resources

- Singing Hands resources on YouTube
- Website - Makaton.org
- CBeebies – Something Special

You can always contact us here at school too ☺