

NOW / NEXT BOARDS

WHY use a Now/ Next Board

1. Transition: to help the child transition from one activity to the next e.g. if the child is playing with trains and need to come to circle time.
2. Complete an adult chosen activity (or less preferred activity) before being able to do what they want
3. Can be used alongside/same time as using a timetable for the whole day.

HOW to prepare a Now/ Next Board

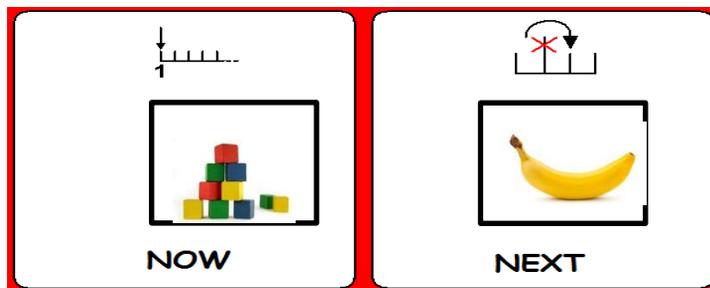
1. This board needs to be portable.
2. A5 size works well
3. Have two empty squares with a piece of Velcro in the centre of each square so that you can put the photo/symbol in each square.

HOW to use a Now/ Next Board

1. Bring the board to where the child is playing
2. Point to the first picture (e.g. trains) and say "first trains" then point to the next picture "next circle".
3. When it's time to transition, show the child the board, take off the first picture and say "___ finished" and point to the second picture and say "now ___"
4. If you want the child to do an activity that's not the child's favourite use the "next" as a reward
Put the activity you want them to do in the "first" box (e.g. painting) and then put the motivating/preferred activity in the "next" box (e.g. cars).
5. Show the board to the child and say "first painting next cars" while then pointing to the second picture.
6. When it's time to transition, remove the picture in the "first" box and point to the picture in the "next" box and say "cars" (the activity in the "next" box).
7. Always make sure to do both activities. This is not to be used as a punishment where the child does not get to do the reward activity.

If the child is able to do so, encourage the child to carry the first/next board to the next activity.

8. Be realistic about child's attention level. 30 seconds per activity or less might be appropriate to start.



Photos and Symbols need to be:

- **Colour:** Use colour photos for items. Children who are learning what the photo means will need this to look the same as the actual item so colour is important.
- **Size:** Use a consistent size for the photographs otherwise a child will focus on what is bigger. A 5cmx5cm size works well.
- **Background:** keep background plain (use a piece of paper or place item on an empty table) and not have distracting items in the background
- **Label:** Use a consistent font and consistent font size if you are labelling the photos. You can also hand write the label. Place this label at the bottom or underneath the photograph.