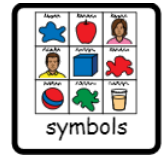


Symbol resources



Visual supports help parents/carers to communicate better with their children and support children in their communication with others. They can be used in various environments and locations and in many situations. For some children they are a vital communication support. It is helpful to have consistency at home and in the school setting and therefore visual supports should be used both at home and at school.

Visual supports can be presented in a variety of ways, such as drawings, photographs, clip art, miniatures of objects and real objects.

Visual supports are used for a variety of purposes and therefore there are many varieties, including:

- Timetables
- Choice boards
- Communication boards
- Helping a child communicate how they are feeling
- Supporting social communication e.g. social stories
- Offering a range of coping strategies

There are a number of free to download resources available online. You can also use drawings, photographs, pictures and objects to create your own.

Available resources:

- **North Lanarkshire Communication Friendly Environments** have set up a webpage with free to download visual supports to help you adapt your environment to ensure it is communication friendly. They have made available timetables, schedules and routines, health and wellbeing resources and information, autism specific resources and social stories and a wide range of other visual supports.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/communicationfriendlyenvironments/>

- **Symbols for All** – a range of subject-specific communication boards, songs and rhymes visual resources, meal time communication boards, toy/activity communication boards, positive behaviour supports, hand washing and toilet sequences etc. They also have symbolised resources to be used alongside Bookbug books.

<https://www.symbolsforall.org.uk/home/>

- **AAC Scotland downloads** – communication boards to support communication when out in the community such as getting on a bus/train and when shopping. They also have template for a 'help postcard' which can be used by a child to help explain their communication needs to new people and what other people can do to support them in conversations.

<https://www.aacscotland.org.uk/downloads/>