

CHOICES BOARD

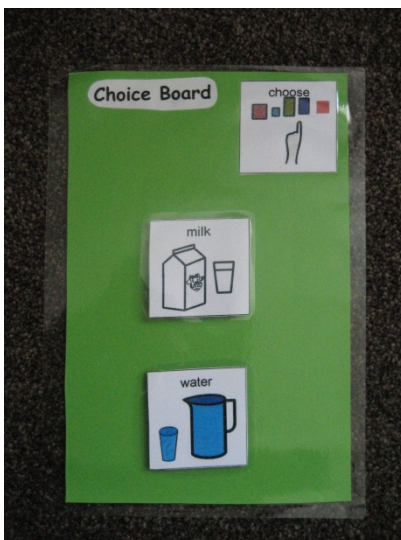
What is a Choices Board?

A 'choices board' is made up of photographs/symbols showing the choice of toys and resources available in the setting. As above, there must be a corresponding symbol attached to the appropriate toy or activity. For example, there must be a 'painting' symbol fixed to the easel or table where the children can paint or a 'book' symbol attached to the bookcase. The "choices" to be used can be decided by the adult, for example what snack is available that day, or by the children, for example choosing what toys can be available for the day.

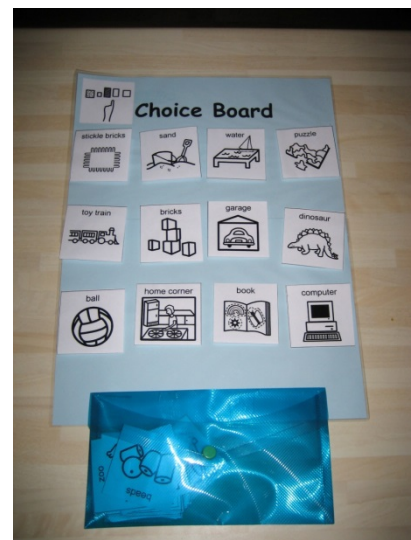
(For a child who is not yet using symbols a "choices box" can be used of the child's preferred toys and symbols/photos of these toys introduced.)

What does it look like?

A simple snack choice board



An activity choices board



How is it different from a visual timetable?

- The photographs/symbols are generally smaller in size in order to distinguish them from those used on a visual timetable.
- It is for the children to access freely and should be placed for the children to access easily.

How does it work?

- Children must have free access to all the symbols on the board.
- Children should be allowed to remove the symbol of their choice from the board and take it to an adult.
- The adult will then support the child to access the toy/activity on the symbol

Who might benefit from a Choices board?

It should be available to **all** children in the nursery but might particularly benefit;

- Children who are extremely shy, or selectively mute.
- Children with communication difficulties.
- Children who might find it difficult to choose from a large selection. If this is the case it is advisable to start by offering the child a choice of two symbols of activities that you know the child enjoys.

Examples of Choices Boards

A simple activity choice board



A song choices board



A snack choices board (with alternative symbols shown)



A song choices key ring