

# Understanding of spoken language

## Supporting understanding of everyday routines - Now-Next board



### Why use NOW AND NEXT BOARDS and who are they for?

#### Now and next boards help children to;

- ✓ Understand spoken words
- ✓ Understand what will happen next
- ✓ Understand changes in routine
- ✓ Understand having to wait for activities/treats etc
- ✓ Understand abstract concepts e.g. time
- ✓ Remember what has been said/will happen next
- ✓ As a motivator to complete a non-preferred activity
- ✓ Learn social rules and behaviours
- ✓ Manage behaviour and stay calm

#### Introducing NOW AND NEXT BOARDS with a child or group of children:

- Start off using the Now and Next Board with pictures/objects of 2 activities the child enjoys — this is to help the child understand how the Now and Next board works .
- Show the child the pictures/objects on the board; use very simple language; e.g. “Now a DVD; Next the trampoline”
- Take your child to do the NOW activity.
- When the NOW activity has ended, tell your child, e.g “DVD’s FINISHED” remove the visual;
- For changes to the child's familiar routine, a photo/symbol/object for the unscheduled activity
- can be used on the Now and Next Board. e.g. for a nursery trip, sports day, party etc.
- Later on, a “surprise” picture may be used instead —this can encourage your child to be more flexible, it begins to introduce the unexpected events and unpredictability that happen in life.

**Measuring progress:** Child's ability to understand their routines - Better able to cope with changes to the routine - Better able to cope with unexpected changes to the routine - Ability to understand routine with visual support - Ability to understand routine when a key-word is used (e.g. 'tidy-up time')

next

now