

## Visuals Supporting independent decision making

### Strategies / Interventions

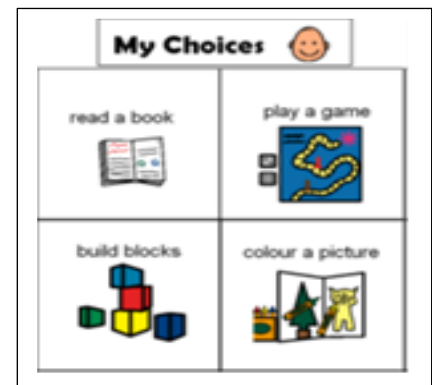
**The use of visuals is highly beneficial in supporting young children to be able to make simple choices and decisions on a day to day basis. For example, choosing between two activities on offer or different foods at snack-time**

They are most effective in enabling a young child who is not yet using any or sufficient spoken language to use non-verbal methods of communication to convey their needs and wants

### What to do:

***Provide a limited choice of photos/ objects to represent the activities/ choices on offer (start with two choices)***

- Adults will need to use strategies to gain the child's attention first
- Show two different objects representing the two different activities, telling the child what they are using single words e.g. "bubbles" (showing bubbles) or "paint" (showing the paints)
- Allow the child time to process and respond
- Repeat the names of the objects again if required
- The child may respond by eye gaze (glancing briefly towards or in the direction of one option or focussing for longer on one particular photo or object), gesture such as pointing, attempting to repeat verbally or using a single word
- Praise when the child tries/indicates their preference



**Links to EYFS:** Communication & Language, Personal Social & Emotional Development

**SEND Code of Practice:** Communication & Interaction, Cognition & Learning, Social Emotional & Mental Health

### Using strategies at home:

**Use objects or photographs displayed on a simple portable board (as above) to offer choices and promote communication and interaction at different points of the day**

- **Play-time:** Supporting the child to make a choice between two play items e.g. train or blocks
- **Meal/ Snack-time:** Supporting the child to make a choice between two foods e.g. cracker or apple and/or two drinks e.g. milk or water
- **Story/ Bed-time:** Show a choice of two different story books that can be shared/ read and encourage the child to make a choice

**Where possible, build choices into daily routines and activities**