Increasing Independence at Home, for Optimal Learning at School: A Toolkit for Families

# Tip 5: using visual supports

Watch this video: Video - [Tip 5: Visual Supports](https://vimeo.com/356560312/47ba978400)

## Definition

Pictures or graphics accompanying verbal or textual instruction.

## Benefits

Visual supports, and having information presented in different ways and multiple times, will aid all learners.

Using visual supports can have a positive effect on your child's engagement by communicating expectations to your child such as what they need to do, when, how long for and what comes next.

## Using this tip

Visual supports can come in many forms, including:

* drawing the eye to important information by bolding, highlighting, enlarging, underlining or changing the colour in a line of text
* displaying information on walls or desks by using charts and pictures related to the topic
* displaying behavourial expectations and rules on a wall in writing and including pictures of your child modelling the desired behaviours. For example, attaching a voice scale to a wall to help remind children to use their 'inside' voice.
* making an example of a document or product to demonstrate to your child exactly what is expected
* using graphic organisers such as Venn diagrams, fishbone diagrams, or mind maps.

**Best Practice Tips**

When using the Visual Supports tip:

* Consider how your child needs information presented, based on ability and task
* Vary visual and environmental supports available.

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