

## Visual Timetables.

### What is a Visual Timetable?

A visual timetable is a visual representation of the activities that a child will encounter over a period of time.

### Why use a Visual Timetable.

A visual timetable enables pupils to understand what they are doing and when. It gives structure to a child's day and can reduce anxiety linked to change. A visual timetable is also an important teaching tool. It teaches memory and recall skills alongside important lifelong skills - organisation and independence.

The use of visuals provides avoids the ambiguity of language, for example the same instruction but presented differently ie sit down, sit on your chair, be seated. Children with difficulty understanding language may benefit from visual timelines because of the extra processing time they allow.

### How to use:

A visual timetable should meet the needs of the individual and be age and developmentally appropriate..

Some pupils can cope with the full day being presented whereas some need shorter periods of time, such as morning and afternoon.

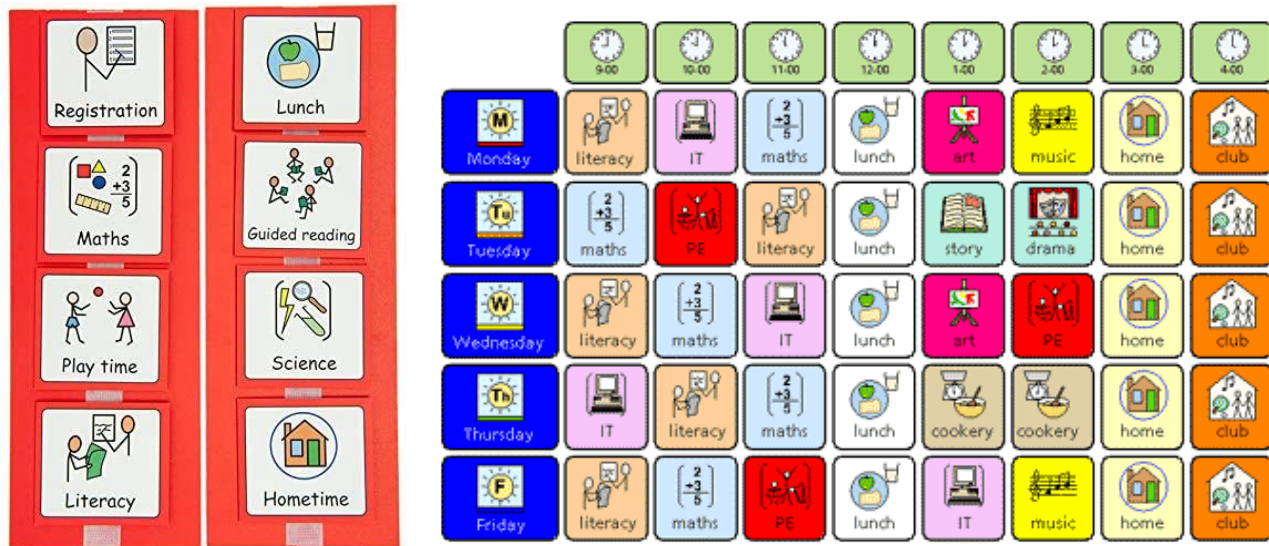
Use symbols, photos, words or objects of reference depending on the needs of the individual.

Some children will need to be able to remove the activities once completed and put in a 'finished' section. This can then be used to return to at the end of the day to review the activities that have taken place.

The child should be taught to manage their own timetable i.e. taking symbols off when an activity has finished.

The child should be encouraged to 'check timetable' when asking what is next.

### Examples:



### Things to remember:

- Make the visual portable. Ensure the child has access to it at all times.
- Personalise the visual to meet the child's special interest.
- Be specific with the symbols that are used. Not all children with ASC can generalise and may not understand that a symbol for an apple means any snack.
- Be consistent with the symbols that are used. Use the same symbols across the setting and home.

For further information contact RANS TASC:

Karen Slack, Nichola Connolly, Nicola Charnock, Carol Dolotko, Karen Riding, Ruth Kelsey and Kim Machell

01706 926400