

Research-Based Practice: Visual Supports

References:

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Description: Visual supports are concrete cues that are paired with, or used in place of, a verbal cue to provide students with information about a routine, activity, behavioral expectation, or skill. Examples include pictures, written words, objects, arrangement of the environment, visual boundaries, schedules, maps, labels, organization systems, timelines, and scripts. Keep the following considerations in mind:

- Some visuals can be designed for all students while others need to be individualized for specific students
- Students may need to actually manipulate the visual support in order to benefit from its use (e.g. check off when items on a visual schedule are completed)
- In some cases, students need explicit instruction to learn what the visual supports mean to ensure they can be efficiently used.
- Students may need prompts to remember to utilize the visual supports. Just be sure to fade prompts.
- You may need to be very creative to figure out ways how to present information visually that is usually presented verbally (especially when teaching academic skills and concepts).