Make It and Take It: Visual Supports for Learning

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What are Visual Supports?

• Visual supports are a way to take what a student hears and put it into picture/word form.

• Key features
  – Target a specific concern, behavior or skill
  – Offer more information about positive/desired behaviors than negative
  – Include a plan for reinforcement
  – Be portable and durable
  – Fit the environment
  – Be customized for each learner
Visual Supports are an effective instructional tool...

• “Visual supports organize a sequence of events, enhancing the student’s ability to understand, anticipate and participate in those events.

• Visual supports supplement verbal instruction, clarifying the information for the student and increasing comprehension.

• Visual supports can be used to cue communication, providing reminders of what to do and say in a situation.”

Quill, 1995
Types of Visual Supports

Common Types
- Visual Schedules
- Mini Schedules
- First Then Displays
- Choice Boards
- Rule Reminder Cards
- Visual Task Analysis
- Social Stories

Less Common Types
- Contingency Plans
- Contracts
- Visual Scenes
- Countdown Displays
- Calendars
- Video Modeling
Pre-Teaching

• PowerPoint Templates
  – On the desktop today, at [www.cotting.org](http://www.cotting.org) next week
  – Navigating PowerPoint
• Finding Pictures
  – Google Images, Flicker, WikiHow, Instructables
  – A word or two about copyright law
• Laminating
  – Cut, laminate, cut
  – The glue trick
• Velcro
  – The Velcro Rule–Controversy
  – Teflon scissors
Let’s Do It

KEEP CALM AND LAMINATE ON
Resources for More Ideas and Printables

• Jada94

• The Autism Helper

• DoToLearn
  – http://do2learn.com/picturecards/overview.htm

• A Day In Your Shoes

• Also check out Teachers Pay Teacher for pre-made materials