



2. Language, communication and social interaction

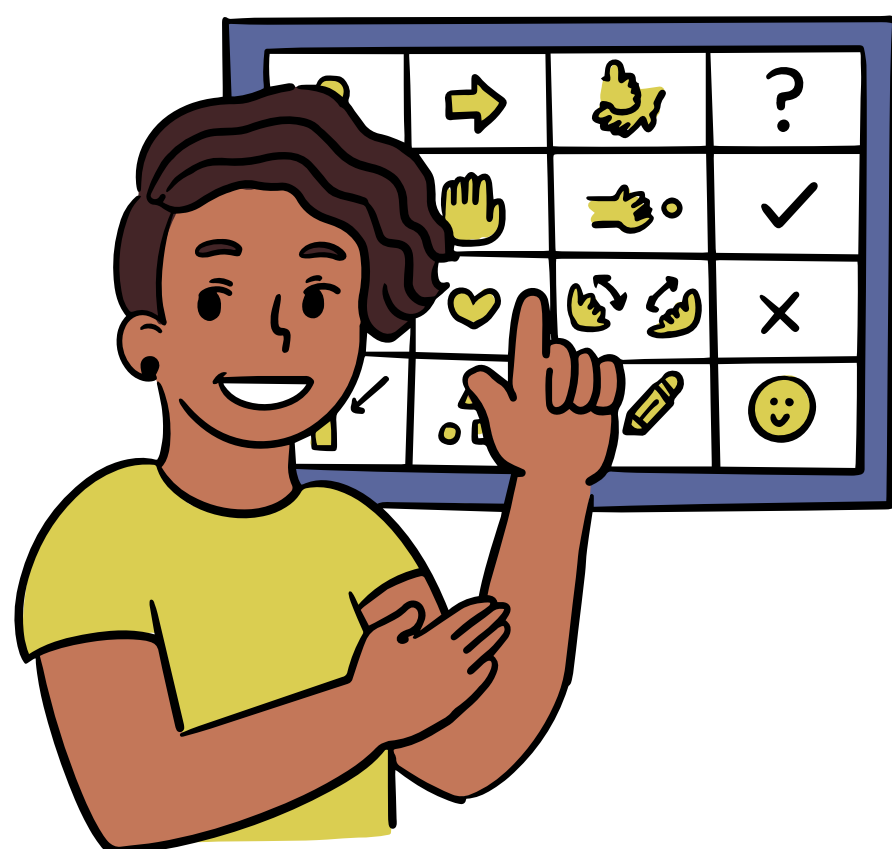
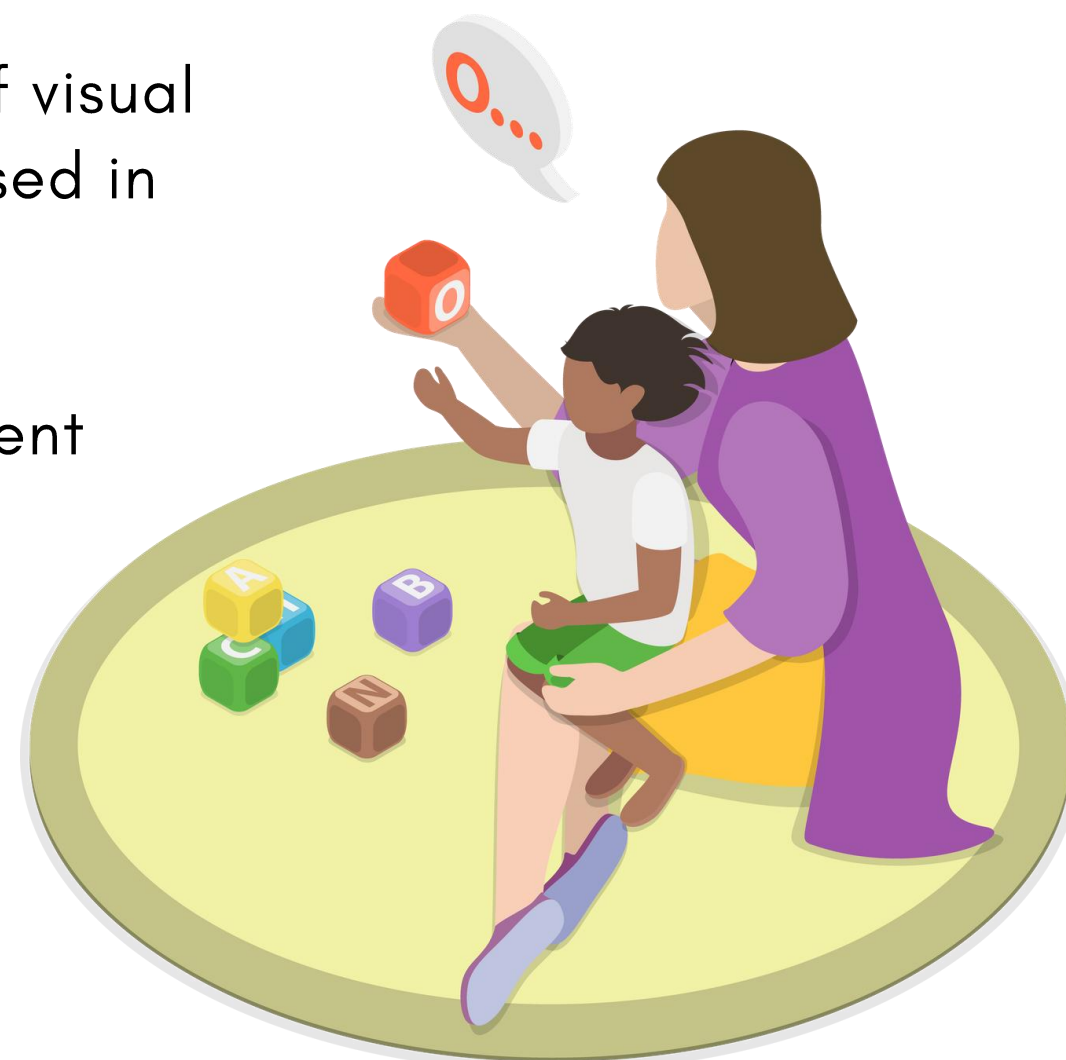
Language Development

Emerging communicators

Children who are non-speaking or use some single words

Children at this stage of their communication development usually benefit from:

- Language being kept simple and consistent. It would help if visual supports such as objects/ gesture/ pictures/symbols are used in conjunction to spoken language.
- Whenever possible, reduce distractions within the environment
- Secure their attention before giving an instruction
- Keep instructions short and broken down into simple steps.
- Offer opportunities to learn through play- based activities.
- Offer opportunities for structured activities 1:1 and in a small group setting which will stimulate and encourage expressive language.
- Follow their lead in play - notice what they are paying attention to and comment and model language based on this.



- Facilitate a communication environment where the child can be calm and alert, with minimal sensory triggers and social stressors.
- Multi-sensory teaching approaches, activities and experiences to engage your child in learning and to aid their processing and understanding of information.
- Visual supports to support your child to understand what is happening, provide predictability and develop independence. These may include objects, visual timetables, schedules, reward charts, now-next boards.
- **Visual supports** can also be used to help children prepare for a change in plan, to visit a new place or to help them learn a new routine (e.g. getting dressed). Further information about visual supports:
<https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/online-resources/visual-resources/>