

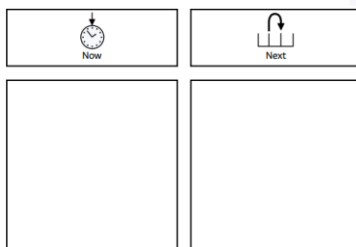
Using a Now and Next Board

Step 1

Before you start using a now and next board, identify the **key activities** you want to be represented on your now and next board. These could include:

- Breakfast
- Free play
- Special time / work time
- Bubbles
- Sand pit
- Water play
- Snack time
- Lunch time
- Nap time
- Home time

These activities may be the same as ones on a visual timeline!



Step 2

Decide whether you would like your visual timeline to have pictures or symbols. Create a picture / symbol card for each of the **key activities** that you have chosen.

Step 3

Introduce your now and next board when completing activities. Show your child what is happening “now” and what is happening “next” and then begin your activity.

Tip – it may be useful to have a bit of Velcro or bluetack to be able to change the activities on the board throughout the day.



Step 4

Have your now and next board within the area of each activity you complete. It may be helpful with less motivating activities to have a motivating activity such as “bubbles” next.

Make it clear when an activity is “finished” and move the symbols on the board to reflect this. You can support this with Makaton signs to provide an additional visual prompts as well.

Key points to remember



Communication
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Visibility

Make sure your now and next board is visible throughout activities! This way your child can refer back to it throughout the activity, and you can use it as a prompt to extend their attention.

Consistency

Check what other picture / symbol prompts you're using throughout the day! If you're using them to represent the same activities that are in your timeline, make sure the pictures / symbols are the same!

If you choose to say 'first and then' instead of 'now and next' make sure this is what is on your board.

Make it fun!

Get your child involved with the now and next board pictures / symbols by asking them to find "what's next" or having a "finished" post box for them to post finished activity cards into.

Talk

Always talk while pointing to pictures / symbols on the now and next board. Make sure you don't just point to the symbols. We want the child to have the opportunity to hear the language as well. You can also support your language with Makaton signs where possible.

Visual timers

Support your child to know how long the activity happening "now" will last by using other resources, such as sand timers.

Help your child

When you introduce the now and next board, your child may not understand what each picture / symbol means. Support them to remain in the appropriate area for an activity and provide lots of reminders to look at the board to extend the current activity.



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