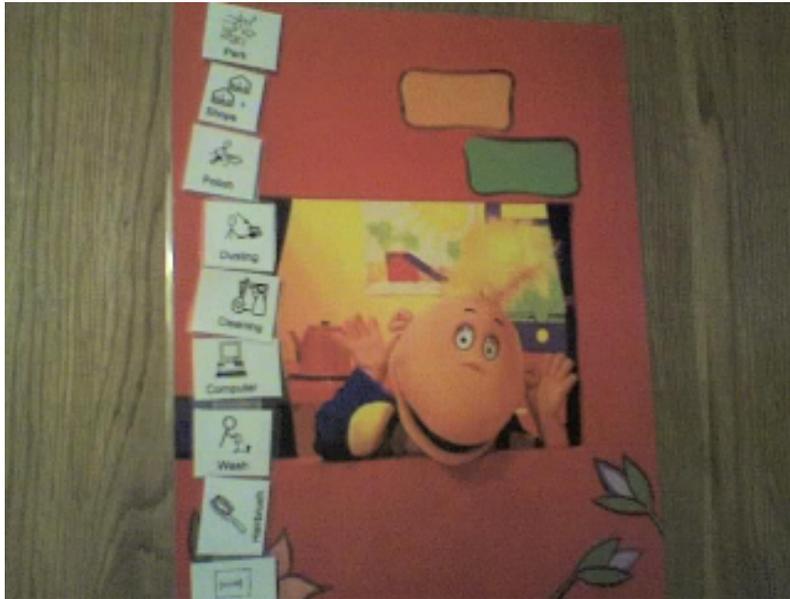


Visual Timetable

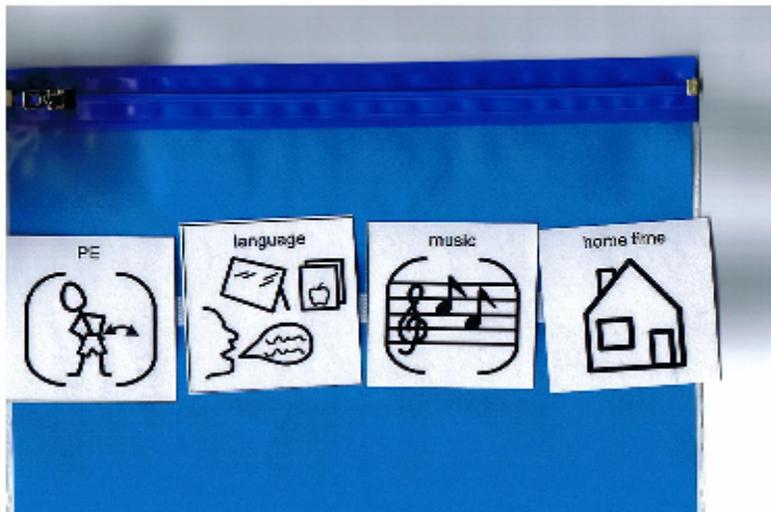


Why use visual timetables?

- Pictorial/ Symbol timetables are used with pupils to help provide structure to represent each of the sessions/ activities the child will be taking part in. They are useful for children who have an understanding of 'First/Then' schedules and are ready to follow a longer sequence of activities. The child must also understand that the symbols represent activities.
- For some children photograph timetables may be appropriate. Ensure the photographs you use match the activity/ session the child will be in. For example, do not use a photo of a blue plate for snack if the child will ultimately be using a yellow plate during snack time.

How to use

- Attach each item (photo/symbol) onto the schedule board with Velcro in the order it will be occurring through the day.
- Encourage the child to take the symbol from the timetable and take it to the area in which they will be working.
- Once each activity has been completed, it is then taken off the timetable and placed in the finished box/envelope. This is important to enable the child to develop an awareness of when an activity is finished, what activities he has completed and what he has left to do.



Where next?

- See below



Where next?

- Visual timetables are an important tool for children on the autism spectrum and not something staff should feel they have to 'wean the child off'. They have the potential to increase the independence of the child and have a variety of different uses throughout life, particularly for reducing anxiety around unexpected changes to routine.
- The next step for a child who is able to use a pictorial schedule would be to adapt it to suit the child's maturity level. You may begin to replace the images with words and gradually support the child towards using a smaller version or a typical 'class timetable' type visual support.

Portable Timetables

- Symbols can be attached to wallets or clip boards so that they can move around with the child as they move from activity to activity or around school.

