

Helping your child to understand what is happening next with Object Signifiers

Information for parents and carers

Object signifiers are objects that are consistently used with a person to represent people, places, objects, and activities. Using object signifiers supports language comprehension which can help reduce distressed behaviour.

The consistent use of object signifiers can also help a non-speaking person to make choices and request objects or activities!

For example:

You could choose a plate as an object to signify snack time.



You could choose a toy duck as an object to signify bath time.





You could choose a twig as an object to signify going outside for a walk.



Key messages

- Instead of words we can use objects to communicate
- Select an object that is meaningful and represents something that occurs frequently
- Show the object just before person/activity/event begins, then put the object away
- Use the object consistently to help make a connection between the two things.

Please use the video links or scan the QR codes below to watch a video on how to use object signifiers. If you have any questions, please contact your local Speech and Language Therapy team.

<p>Helping your child to understand by showing objects https://vimeo.com/channels/1629785/706904252</p>	
<p>Objects of Reference - CCH NHS Trust https://vimeo.com/415582642</p>	

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