

Helping your child to understand what is happening next with song signifiers

Information for parents and carers

Song signifiers are simple tunes that support children to understand their daily routine. They are sung before moving onto an activity and again just before the activity is about to start.

For example:

Sing to the tune: 'Quartermasters stores'

Lunch, Lunch, It's time to get your lunch,

Get your plate, get your spoon.

Lunch, Lunch it's time to get your lunch,

It's time to get your lunch.



Song signifiers are also used to signal that an activity has come to an end:

Sing to the tune: 'Frères Jacques'

Lunch is finished, Lunch is finished, Time to stop, time to stop.

Lunch is finished, lunch is finished, Time to stop, time to stop



Key Messages

- The tunes used for the song signifiers are the most important part. Try and use different tunes for each different activity.
- Song signifiers can be used along with other communication strategies such as Singalong, gestures or object signifiers.

Please use the video link or scan the QR code below to watch a video on how to use Song Signifiers. You will also find a list of well-known Song Signifiers. If you have any questions, please contact your local therapy team.

Oaklands School – Song Signifiers Videos

<https://oaklandsedinburgh.com/our-school/supporting-pupils-communication/song-signifiers/>

Thanks to all the pupils, families, and staff at Oaklands school for their hard work putting together this video.



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