

Communication Placemats

The goal of the communication placemat is to encourage the use of communication instead of problem behavior and increase opportunities for interaction.

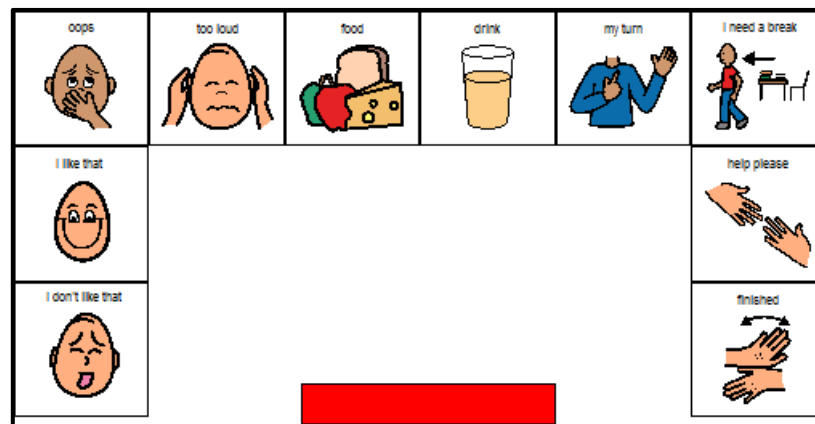
These communication supports should be:

1. Easily accessible
2. Used by both the student and teachers or peers during communication
3. Predictable- For example, if you determine that the best place to put the “break” icon is in the right hand corner for that particular student then that icon should always be placed in the right hand corner, even if the activity changes.
4. Rewarding for the student- Icons that are chosen should not only be what we think the student needs to communicate about but also what they may want to communicate about.

We have made a basic set of icons for each student. (You will not want to use all of them.) There will likely be modifications or additions that you want to make. The boardmaker file containing the icons is available for you if you need it.

Examples of modifications you may want to make after you get to know the students are:

- larger icons
- strong visual contrast in color of icons
- objects or TOBIs instead of pictures
- limiting number of icons used on the mat
- changing vocabulary used on the icon to a word the student already uses (i.e. they may say “chill out” instead of “break”)
- location of icons on the mat may be different depending on the students physical needs and field of vision



- ❖ Important note- These placemats were made using the resources we had available and with the idea that we would be using them for multiple students over the years. There are many other materials, colors and patterns that can be used for making communication placemats. If you have a chance to make them for your own students don't be afraid to try your own ideas and use the materials that you have.

more



thank you



too loud



food



my turn



oops



fun



drink



your turn



finished



hot



cold



break



help



tired



napkin



I like that



I don't like that



spoon



fork



sick



stop



fireworks



wave



Good job!



please be quiet



too loud



wow

