

Using Visuals in your Setting

Visuals are:

- objects, photographs, pictures or symbols – the 'ladder of visuals' below is a helpful guide
- used with children at the same time of saying the associated word
- a visual reminder of the spoken message - visuals are constant and can be looked at many times whereas the spoken word quickly disappears

Apple



Visuals can be used for:

- all children
- children who are at risk of delay in communication development
- supporting listening and attention skills
- offering independence and choices
- supporting daily routines for all children or for individual children e.g. mealtimes, washing hands, story time

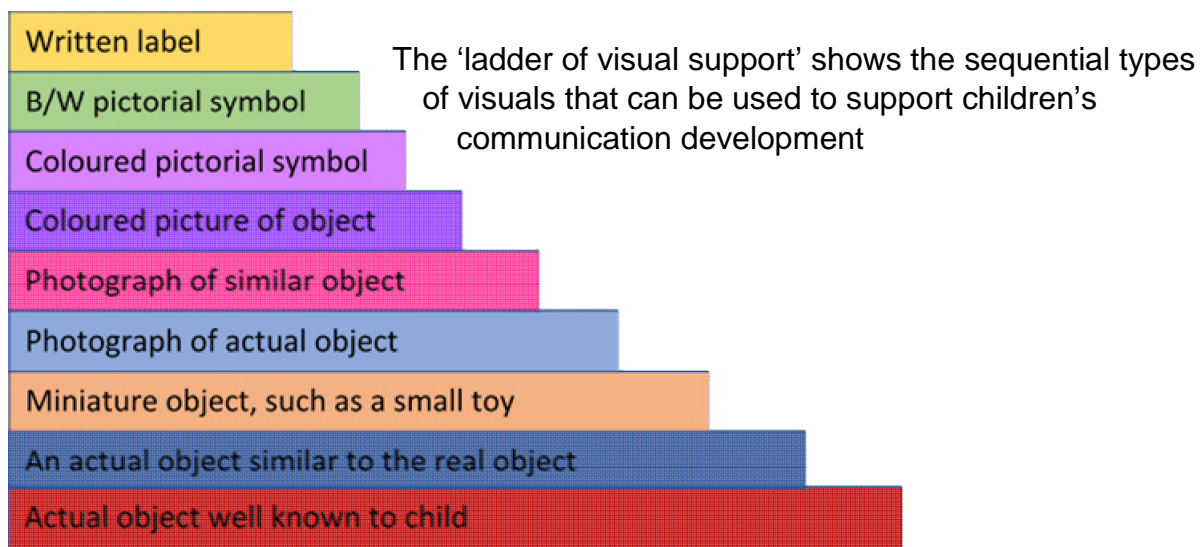
Visuals can also:

- reduce frustration for a child
- help a child to understand communication & learn new words
- help adults to use short, simple phrases
- help children understand expectations in a positive way

Remember:

- be consistent in the choice and use of visuals
- think about the size & position of visuals
- small steps can make a significant difference
- children need time to use visuals in everyday practice

Ladder of visual support (Gross, J. (2018) *Time to talk*. Oxon: Routledge)



An example of a 'first and then' type of visual that could be used to maintain a child's attention



A sample of a song board supporting children's independence and choice

