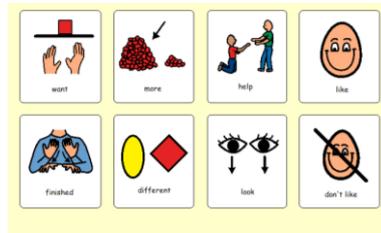
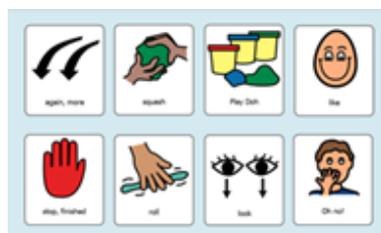


Using Symbols to Communicate at Home: Core boards & Play Charts

***Core boards:** these include words we can use in any activity, **ALL** of the time. We can combine these with gestures, pointing or showing to get our meaning across.



***Play charts** use words specific to that activity or game. We can still combine these with gestures, pointing or showing to get our meaning across if we need to.



Tips

- Try and use these boards as much as you can in everyday activities.
- If you're baking and your child reaches to grab the rolling pin, try directing them back to the symbols on the board and say 'Oh, you **want** the rolling pin' pointing to the symbol and/ or objects as you talk.
- You may need to anticipate or interpret what your child is telling you e.g. your child looks at the banana and you say 'I think you want '**more**' banana' pointing to the symbol as you talk.
- Don't worry about **repeating yourself lots**, this will really help your child learn what communication is all about.
- If your child points to the symbols, great. But there's no pressure. They are learning by watching you!

Have a go at....

- **Modelling**

As you talk point to the key words to show your child what they mean.

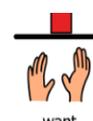
e.g. **more**



stop

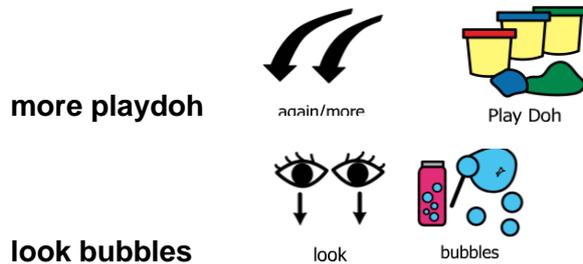


want



- **Expanding**

If your child uses words and uses a single word or symbol, then use a core board or play chart to teach them new vocabulary by adding one more e.g.



- **Sabotage** (it is not as dramatic as it sounds)

Give your child a reason to communicate!

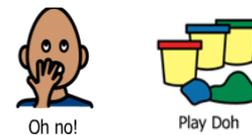
Only give them half a biscuit so they have a reason to ask for **'more'** or forget to give them some playdoh.

If your child doesn't respond, model and show them how to:

'Oh no, we need some playdoh.'

Maybe next time they will ask. If not, don't worry show them again!

This is also a great way of encouraging your child to ask for 'help.'



Remember

- You won't have a symbol for everything and that's ok.
- Point to objects and people who are not on the board e.g. **"like** cucumber (point to cucumber), but Sam (point to Sam) **likes** tomato." (show a tomato) use a sign or gesture!
- **This is real life communication!**
- Don't worry if your child does not seem interested in the board; continue to use them as much as you can.

To see how it's done have a look at these clips on youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmuBaL-xWfw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiqYapgu69g>

If you need any communication boards to use at home please contact your Therapist. If your child has any particular interests e.g. baking, music, dinosaurs, then **we can find or make a board that you can use while they are doing these things** (if they are really motivated by the activity they are more likely to engage with you and the symbols you are pointing to).