

## Intervention Idea: Create Visual Support Materials

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Visual Support Materials (VSM) are an essential tool for helping communication interact with the person using a Minspeak® system. They allow that person to help the Minspeak® user find codes in the device without that person being an expert in use of the system.





- Create a wall-chart of the words and codes in your child's Minspeak® device. Post the wall-chart in a common area in your home. This wall-chart is a visual reminder about the words in your child's device and how to say them. If you can find the word on the chart and match the pictures on the chart to the pictures on the device, you can help your child talk. A commercial product called the Minspeak® Natural Language Boards provides a poster-sized chart of 300+ words from Unity®32, Unity®45, Unity®84, and Unity®128. However, if you have the time, you can make your own chart.
- In many households, we use message boards and *To Do* lists to maintain order and help family members remember important events and activities. We all need these kinds of visual reminders in our busy lives. We need the same kind of visual reminders to help our child using an AAC device. **Create simple visual reminders** to use the device in the day-to-day talking that happens in your family. For example, write the phrase *Help me please* on a card, along with the pictures you need to say that phrase.

help   me   please  

### Example from Unity®60 Sequenced.








Post the card in places where your child usually needs help (e.g., in the bathroom, by the bed, in the kitchen, etc.)

- Look around your house and decide what kinds of things you want your child to say to you during everyday talking opportunities. Look for those things that encourage your child to develop independence. Encourage talking that is more than just asking for things. Then make a visual reminder for the items on your list. At first, you might have to point out the words and codes on the visual reminder cards, helping your child find those pictures on his/her Minspeak device. Eventually, it is hoped that your child will learn to independently match what he/she sees on the card to the pictures on his/her device. When your child takes notice and uses the visual reminder, be very animated in your delight. He/She will want to please you again and again. The more that you engineer your home with these visual reminders, the more you remind yourself and your child to use the Minspeak® device. Here are some starter ideas and sample cards.





- On your child's door = my  room 
- On the door going outside = go  outside 
- By the light, tv, DVD player, water faucet, or anything that your child likes to tell you to turn on/off


turn   it   on  








turn   it   off  

- On the toy box, closet, book shelf = put  away  
- By the clock = what  time  is it  

- Put the Minspeak® picture sequence for each family member on that family member's bedroom door.
- By the TV, post a series of visual reminders to use when negotiating TV watching.






○ what  is  on  

○ change  it  

○ watch    something    else  

○ turn   it   up  

○ turn   it   down  

○ I don't want   to watch    this 