

# Visual Supports Reflection Tool

## Team Reflection on Visual Supports

When preschools take a whole-team approach to using visual supports, all children benefit. This resource has been designed to help you to reflect on how visuals are currently used in your setting and to consider:

- ▶ What's working well and why?
- ▶ What may be getting in the way of embedding visuals into your program?

Teams are encouraged to explore these questions together, gathering input from all educators in ways that suit your unique context.

Below are some guiding questions to support meaningful reflection and conversation.

## Pedagogical Purpose

Do we know the purpose of each visual support (e.g. supporting understanding, guiding transitions, promoting independence, indicating choices)?	
Are visuals used to encourage children's expression or largely to deliver messages from educators?	

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Are visuals used across the program with all children or only with specific children?	
Are we using a range of formats (photos, drawings, objects, digital) to support children across differing levels of symbolic understanding?	
Do visuals enhance other teaching methods (e.g. storytelling, play, songs)?	
Are the visuals clear and engaging? Are they positioned in locations at children's eye level? Are they durable and easy for children and educators to access whenever needed? How do children respond?	

## Cultural and Social Relevance

Do visuals reflect children's cultural, linguistic, and family backgrounds?	
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Are families invited to contribute or co-create visuals e.g. including their home language?	
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## Children's Agency

Can children interact with or adapt visuals?	
Are children invited to help create visuals that are meaningful to them?	
Are visuals used to support children to express their needs and wants?	
Do we collaborate with families and early childhood intervention professionals to tailor visual supports to support children's individual communication needs?	

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## Effectiveness and Team Practice

What evidence is there to show visuals are helping (e.g. changes in engagement, communication, regulation)?	
How do we evaluate the effectiveness of visuals in daily routines?	
Is every team member confident and involved in using visuals (i.e. is a whole team approach in place)?	
Are visuals used consistently and embedded in practice across all rooms and days?	
Have we allowed adequate time to embed use of specific visuals in practice before trying something new (e.g. at least 5 weeks)?	