The Power of Visuals

At Home

One more tool for your toolbox

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A Little Bit About Me

- Certified Speech-Language Pathology Assistant
- B.S. in CSD with emphasis in Speech-Language Pathology (The University of Texas)
- Graduate student at California State University Northridge
- Nearly a decade of experience
- Specialized training in:
  - Behavior Analysis and Behavior Management
  - Augmentative Communication Systems
  - American Sign Language

I'm here to tell you about VISUALS, but *FIRST*...

Understanding Behavior

Antecedent

What happens BEFORE the behavior

Behavior

Consequence

What happens AFTER the behavior

What shapes a behavior?

(The ABC's of Behavior)

Getting the good stuff

Owen "Gets the Good Stuff": Video Example

Escaping the bad stuff

Owen "Escapes the Bad Stuff": Video Example

Case Study: Owen

Likes	Dislikes
• Dump trucks • Super heroes • Ice cream • The color blue • Reading books	• Washing his hair • Putting his trucks away • Going to bed

Owen is playing with his dump truck. Mom says, “It’s time to take a bath.” Owen begins to whine.

How can we use his likes/dislikes as a consequence to get him to clean up?

The Power of a Consequence

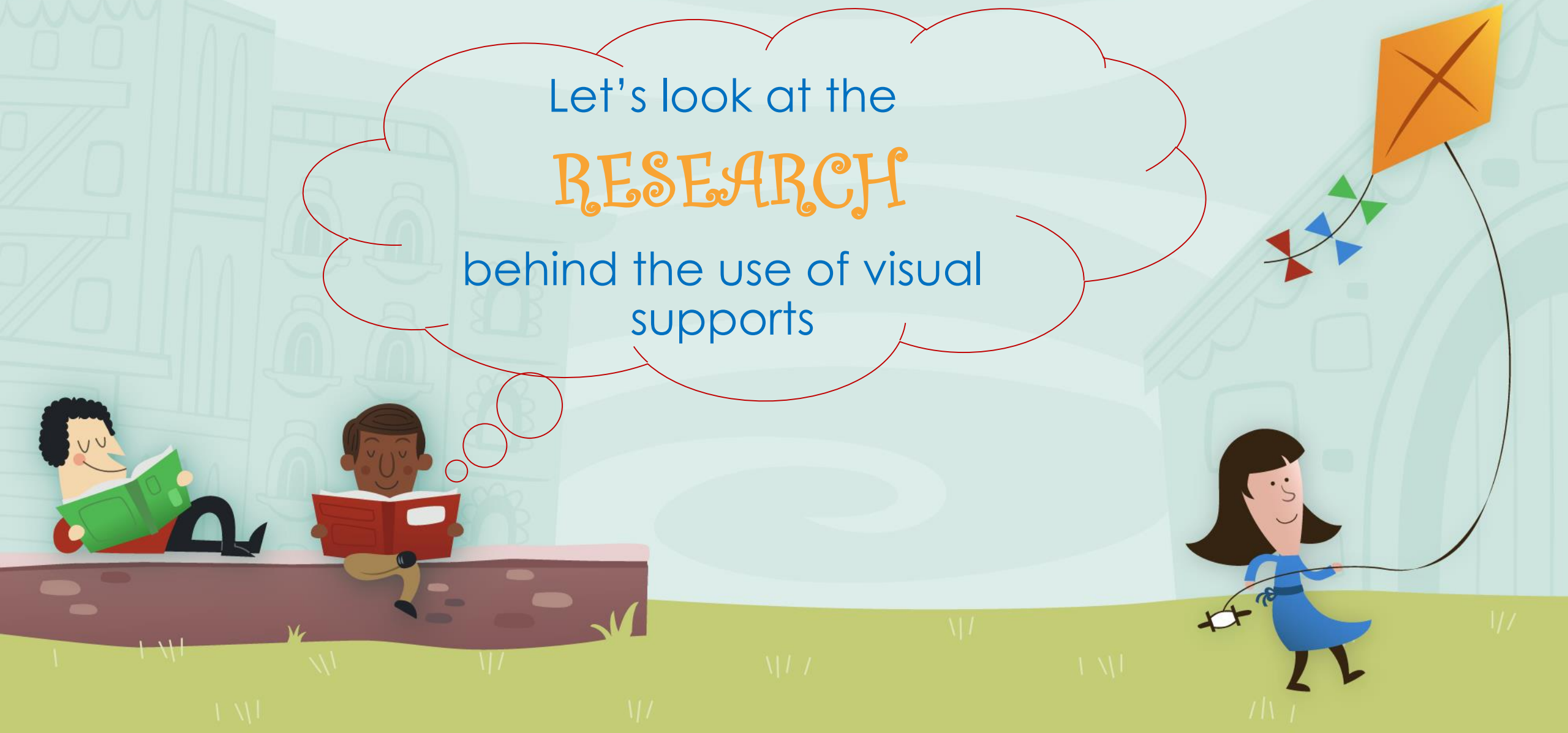
**The first person to raise his/her hand and give their neighbor a high five will win a prize.*

Now that we understand the ABC's of behavior...

Let's look at the

RESEARCH

behind the use of visual supports



Evidence Based Practice

Why visual supports are so effective

Visuals can benefit people ACROSS AGE GROUPS

Early Childhood, Elementary	Adolescent, Adult
• Task Engagement/Compliance • Social/Anticipatory Routines • Play skill development	• Promote task independence • Increase on-task behavior • Self-help skills development

Resource: LSU Human Development Center, http://www.hdc.lsuhsc.edu/LSI2012/presentations/Thursday/LASARDVisualSupports.pdf

Visual supports are effective across SETTINGS

- Visual support systems can be utilized nearly anywhere and are often included as a component of a comprehensive intervention approach for people with ASD.

Resource: The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Reinforcement is effective across a VARIETY OF SKILLS

- Visual supports target a number of adaptive behavior skills, including task engagement, independent performance, transitions across activities, and increasing response chain length. Visual supports have also proven effective in increasing skills across curriculum areas, including the demonstration of play skills, social interaction skills, and social initiation. In addition, visual supports have been beneficial in reducing self-injurious behavior.

Resource: The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders

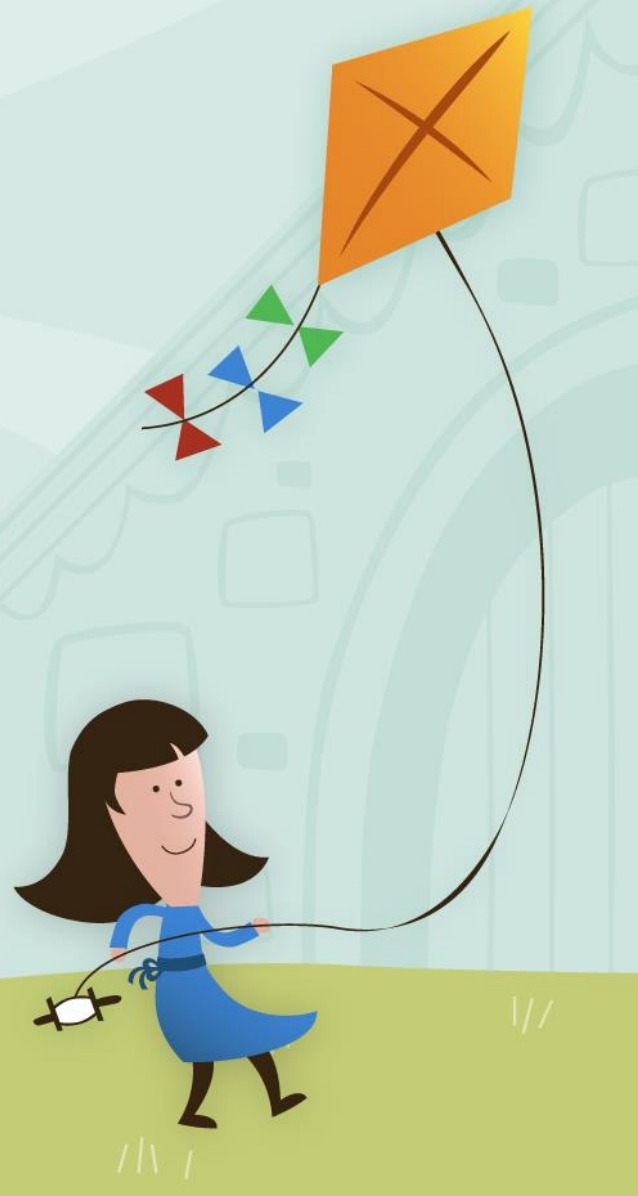
✓ We've Covered:

ABC's of Behavior

Evidence Based Practices

Next:

Understanding Visual Supports



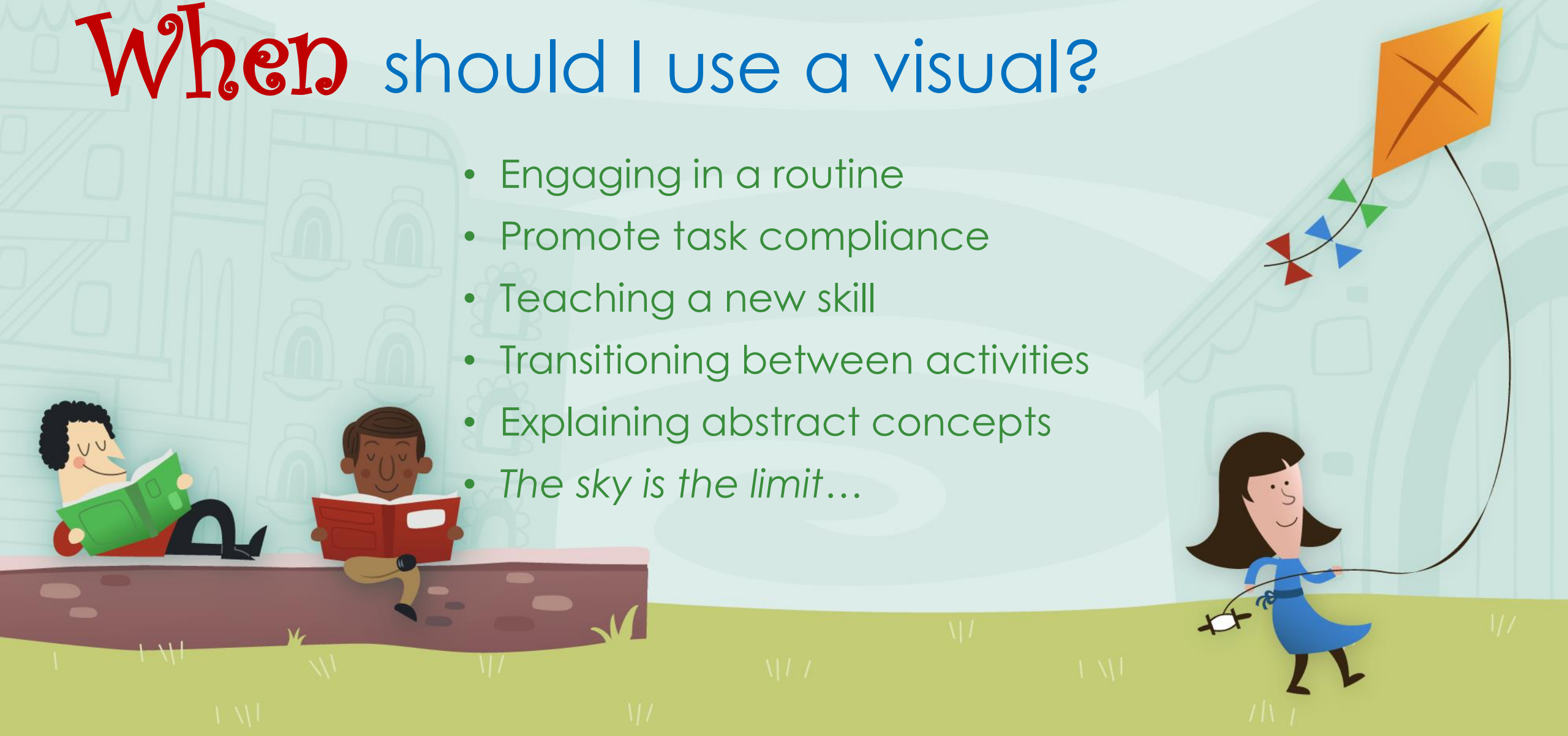
What is a visual?

Visual supports are any tool presented visually that supports an individual.

BONUS: Who can tell me a visual they used on their way here today?

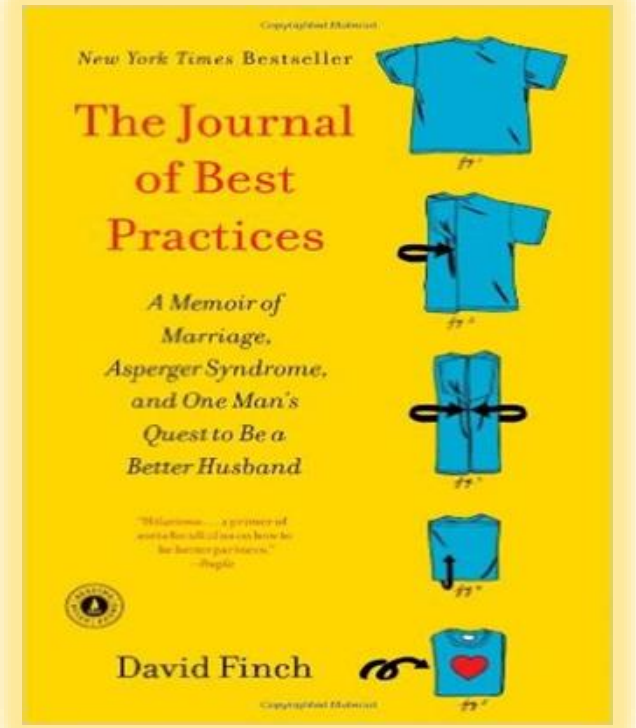
When should I use a visual?

- Engaging in a routine
- Promote task compliance
- Teaching a new skill
- Transitioning between activities
- Explaining abstract concepts
- *The sky is the limit…*



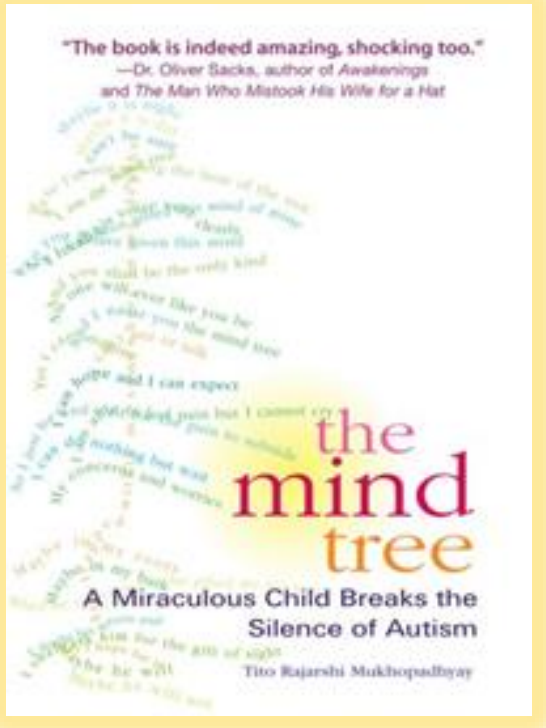
Why are visuals important?

Who better to ask than our friends with ASD?



The Journal of Best Practices: A Memoir of Marriage, Asperger Syndrome, and One Man's Quest to Be a Better Husband

By: David Finch



The Mind Tree: A Miraculous Child Breaks the Silence of Autism

By: Tito Mukhopadhyay

Let’s talk about

HOW

to use visuals at home

Step One: Identify the target behavior

What do we need to work on?

Step Two: Understand Child's Present Abilities

What are realistic expectations?

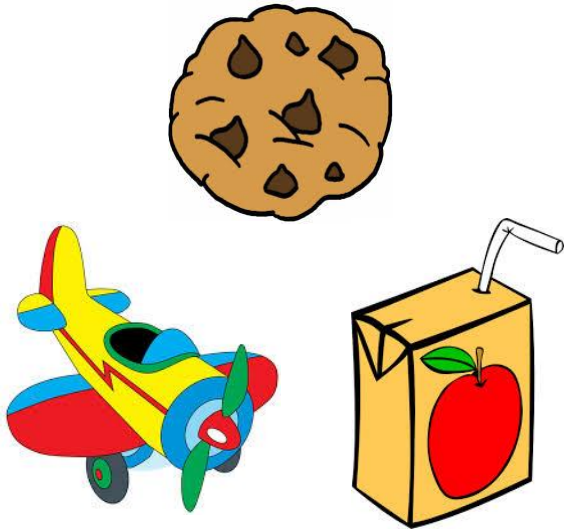
Video Example: Unrealistc Expectations

Step Three: Identify Reinforcers

What are your child's likes/dislikes?

Primary	Secondary (learned)
Cookies	Tickles/Verbal Praise
M&M's	Toys
Apple Juice	Break

Reinforcer Menu



For a prize, what's one thing you're almost always willing to work for?

Step Four: Create a Visual

1. Appropriate for child's abilities

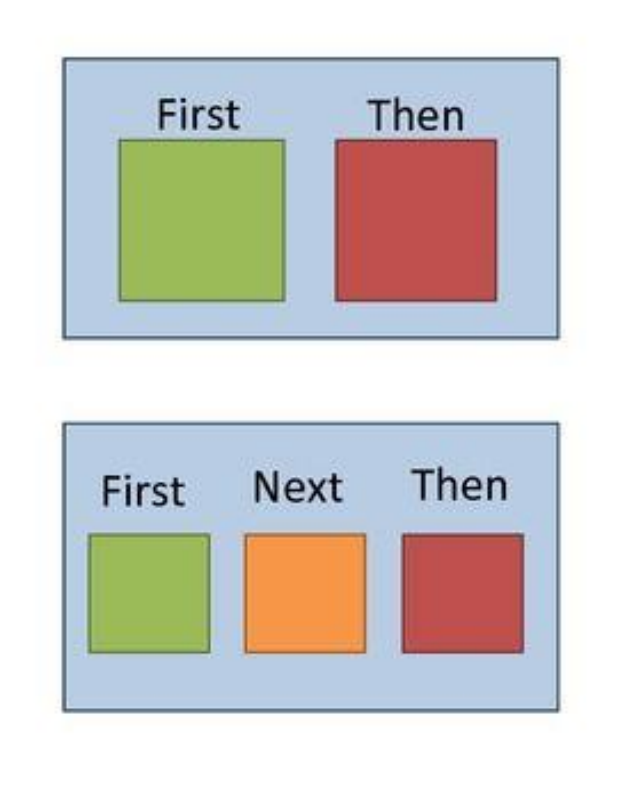
2. Portable (or easily reproduced)

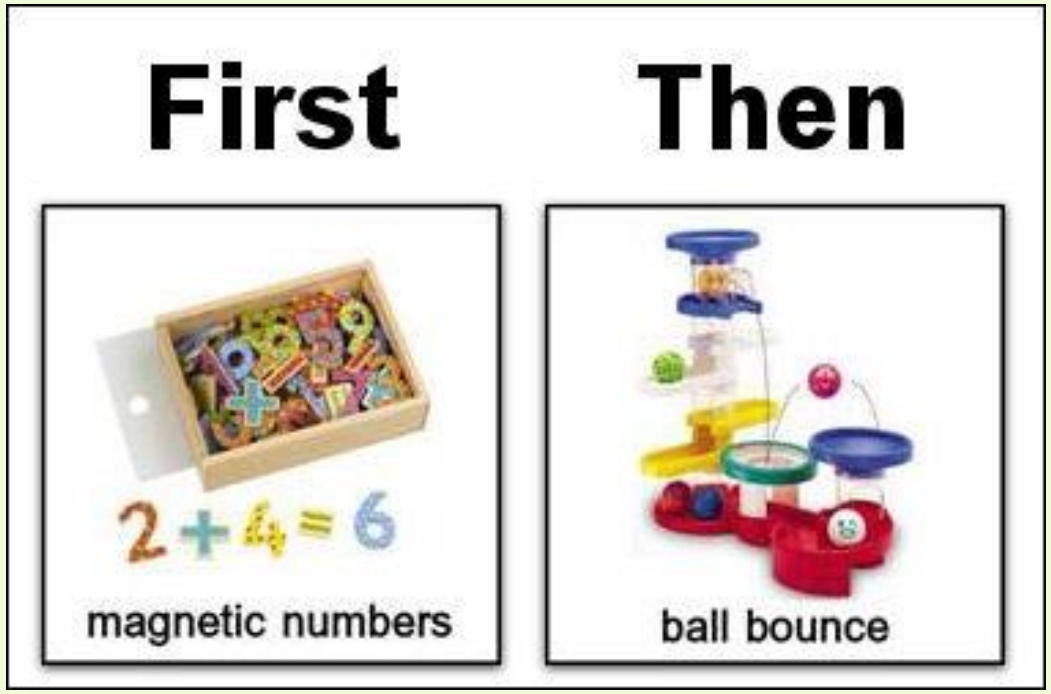
3. Flexible functionality (can it change on a dime?)

A Few of My Favorite Things…

The Go-To Visuals in my Toolbox

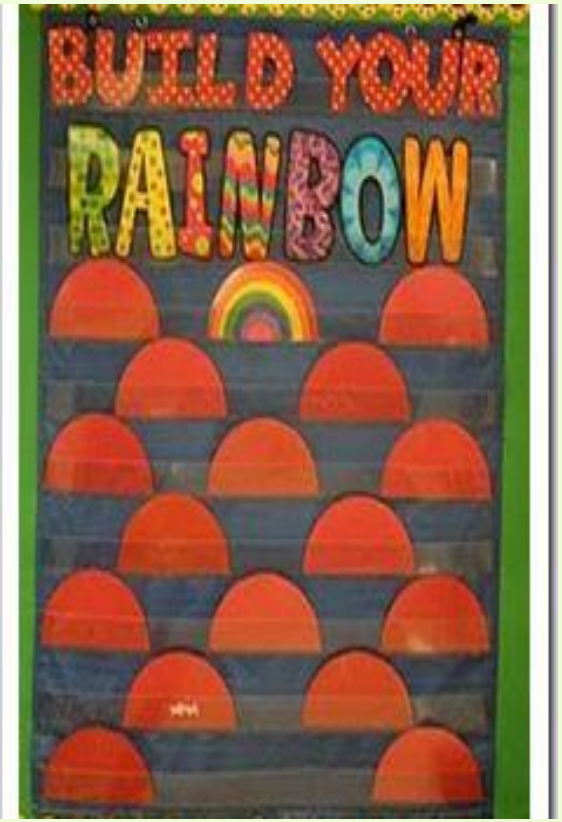
The Almighty "First-Then"



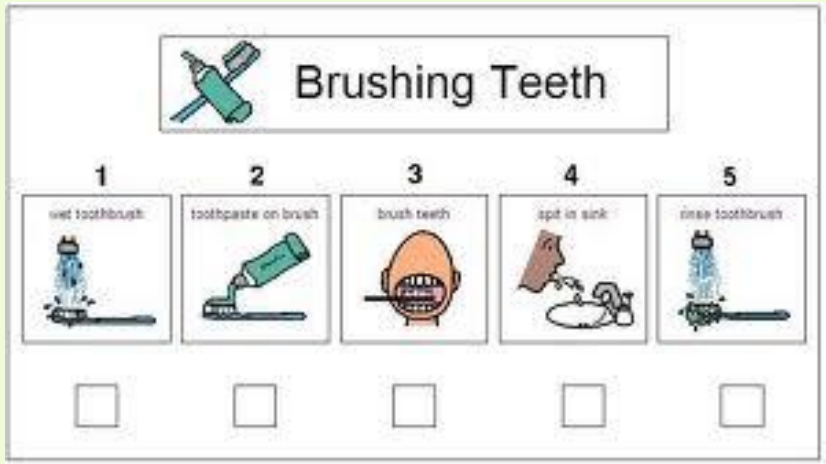


Pssst….There's an app for that!

The One-Stop-Shop Token Economy



The Oh-So-Faithful Visual Schedule



Step Five: Monitor Progress and Effectiveness

- Has the desired behavior increased?
- Has the undesirable behavior decreased?
- Are the visuals still motivating enough?
- Have my child's interests/needs changed?

Check out these FREE Resources!

- Teachers Pay Teachers
  - www.teacherspayteachers.com
- Speaking of Speech
  - www.speakingofspeech.com
- A Day In Our Shoes
  - https://adayinourshoes.com/free-printable-visual-schedules-for-home-and-daily-routines/
- Connect-Ability
  - http://connectability.ca/visuals-engine/

Questions?

Sources

- http://education.jhu.edu/PD/newhorizons/Journals/specialedjournal/Harris
- http://www.hdc.lsuhsc.edu/LSI2012/presentations/Thursday/LASARDVisualSupports.pdf
- https://www.autismsocietyga.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/VisualSupports_Complete.pdf
- http://www.goodkarmaapplications.com/first-then-visual-schedule.html