



# The Red Door School

An **DORAS** **DEARS**

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## Visual Supports Pack

Many of our students are visual learners, so presenting information in a visual way can help to encourage and support their communication, language development and ability to process information. Visual supports help to provide structure and routine, promote independence and reduce anxiety.

The following visual supports are included in this pack:

### Social Stories

Social stories are a useful tool to support children during change or when something new is happening. The following social story and visual supports are included in your pack:

- My school is closed, working from home social story
- Washing hands tips

### Back to school Visual Calendar

The back to school visual calendar can be used to communicate when your child will be returning to school following a school closure. Place the home pictures on the calendar on the days your child is not in school. A few days before your child is due to return to school place the school picture on the calendar on the corresponding day. For example, if school is re-opening on a Monday the calendar would have home placed on it for the week before and school for the week after. As each day passes you can remove the picture at the end of the day and show your child the calendar indicating how many days left until they return to school.

### Visual Schedule

A visual schedule is a helpful tool in supporting students through their learning. Just as we use calendars/ diaries your child's visual schedule can help provide structure and routine so that your child knows what activity is coming next while also giving them a concept of time as they complete activities and these are removed from the schedule.

The visual schedule should be displayed where your child can see it. The visual schedule should be set up with your child before starting their schoolwork. As your child completes each activity throughout the day they should be encouraged to remove the picture of the activity.



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## **First/Next/Then**

The First/Next/then is a visual representation of a sequence of events e.g. 'First maths, next colouring, then play'. Some children may only use the first/ next part of the sequence and some only use first/next/then. You will know which works best for your child based on the level of support they may need. If you are unsure start with the first/next and build on from there.

This can be a helpful tool for individuals who may have difficulty with completing an activity or transitioning from one setting to another.

It can also be used to support your child with something that they may find challenging such as doing their matching work. In this case the first part would have a picture of matching, and the 'next' part would have a picture of something your child really enjoys doing or playing with.

## **Choice Board**

A choice board can be used to offer choices of activities that are available to your child that he/she would like to complete. This can be used throughout their day and helps to promote communication skills and give your child a sense of independence.

## **Token board**

Token boards can be used to reinforce appropriate behaviour. Tokens can be given to reward your child for completing their work. When a child earns all their tokens they can get their reward for all their hard work! A picture of what your child is working towards should be placed on the token board. Some generic pictures have been included in this pack and you can use pictures from google images or draw a picture of what your child is working for.

## **Timer**

A timer is a useful tool to indicate the end of an activity and to help your child to transition between activities. A kitchen timer, or timer on your phone can be used to support this.