

Helping your child to understand what is happening next with Object Signifiers

Object signifiers are objects that are consistently used with a person to represent people, places, objects, and activities.

Using object signifiers supports language comprehension which can help reduce distressed behaviour.

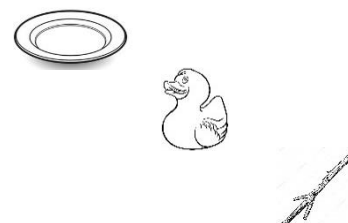
The consistent use of object signifiers can also help a non-speaking person to make choices and request objects or activities!

For example:

You could choose a plate as an object to signify snack time.

You could choose a toy duck as an object to signify bath time.



You could choose a twig as an object to signify going outside for a walk.



Key messages:

- Instead of words we can use objects to communicate
- Select an object that is meaningful and represents something that occurs frequently
- Show the object just before person/activity/event begins, then put the object away.
- Use the object consistently to help make a connection between the two things.

Scan the QR code or click the link below to watch a video on how to use object signifiers. If you have any questions, please contact your local Speech and Language Therapy team.

Title of Video: Helping your child to understand by showing objects	
Video Link: https://vimeo.com/channels/1629785/706904252 Video produced by NHS Lothian SLT	QR code: 
Title of Video: Objects of Reference	
Video Link: https://vimeo.com/415582642 Video produced by CCH NHS Trust	QR code: 

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