

## Choice Boards

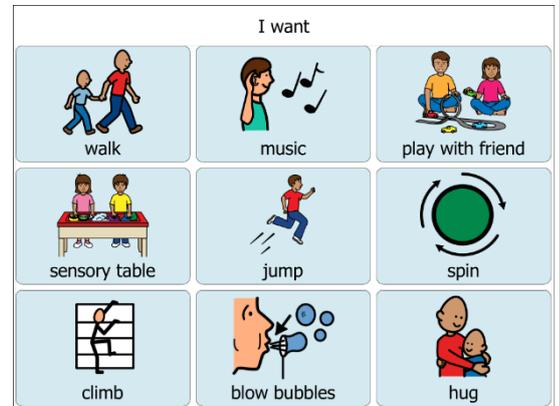
Choice boards are a really useful visual strategy which support children to request and make choices.

Choice making can be used in lots of situations e.g.

- Food/drink
- People, places, toys
- Choosing a reward
- Choosing an activity/action

The number of pictures/symbols available will depend on your child's level of understanding.

This can be changed over time depending on how your child responds i.e. we may offer more or fewer choices.



### How to use them:

1. Show your child the choice board. Point to each of the choices available naming them as you point.  
Show the corresponding item or action. This will help your child to link the picture with the item, especially if they are new.
2. Wait to see if your child can show you which item they want by pointing to the picture/symbol.  
Don't worry though if they don't. At first, they just need to see you using the board!
3. It's also ok if your child reaches for or points to the item. Use this as an opportunity to model and point to the symbol on the board saying '*you want....*' and give them the item.
4. If your child points to the item symbol, add another word /symbol if you can by pointing and saying '*want + the item*' and give your child the item they asked for.



## Top Tips

- If your child points to an item, you know they **don't** want:  
Still give it to them and say: '*you chose the....*'  
This will help them to understand they made the wrong choice.

When they reject the item, you can model again.

Point to the symbol again and say: 'I think you want the...' showing the item.

- There will be times when your child simply can't have what they are requesting. Use the 'not available' symbol and offer them a different choice.
- If your child is finding it difficult to make a choice offer them an alternative e.g. do you want....or.....
- If your child is getting confused by the number choices on offer, talk to you Speech and Language Therapist as we may need to reduce the number of choices or use a different layout for the board.



**Remember:** We will never have a symbol for everything!

The easiest way is to show your child the items on offer.

Or

You could always use a gesture or sign or have a go at drawing it!