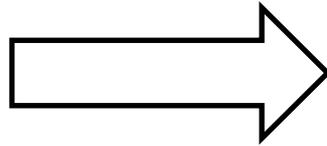
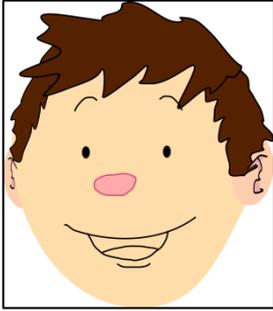


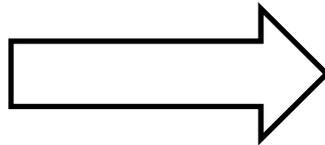


## Step by step: visual schedules

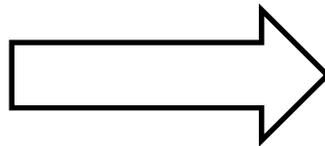
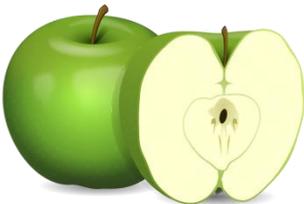
**How do I set up a visual schedule?**



Place the child's picture at the top. This is the same picture that you give to them every time you want them to return to the schedule.



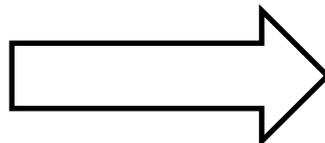
Use either symbols, photos or objects as recommended by the Speech and Language Therapist.



Ensure that you have at least three symbols, photos or objects on the schedule at any one time to encourage understanding of routine.



POCKET



The pocket at the base of the schedule is where the child places their own picture every time they return to the schedule.



## Step by step: visual schedules

### How do we use the visual schedule?

Child is given photo of themselves to direct them to return to their schedule. Use minimal language to encourage independence.



Child goes to schedule, guided from behind if necessary.



Child places the picture of themselves in the pocket at the bottom of the schedule



Child takes off the top symbol/photo/object from the top of their schedule. N.B. there should be at least three items on the schedule at all times.



Child goes to the next area or activity, guided from behind if necessary.



Child matches the symbol/photo/object to a corresponding matchback next to the area/activity.



When the activity is finished, adult gives a countdown (e.g. "colouring is finished in 3, 2, 1, finished") and gives child a picture of themselves to return to schedule and repeat the process.

#### Why guide from behind and use minimal language?

The aim of the visual schedule is to encourage independence in following a routine. Eventually, we want children to be able to access the schedule without any adult supporting them. This is why we use minimal language and guide them from behind, to simulate as much as possible what it will be like for them when they are following the visual schedule independently, and to reduce their dependence on us prompting them physically and verbally.

#### Why have more than one symbol/picture/object on the schedule?

Having more than one symbol/picture/object on the schedule encourages the child to develop their understanding of following routines (what happens now, what comes next etc). Eventually, we want to be able to put lots of symbols/pictures/objects on the schedule so that they can follow a routine independently (e.g. for a whole morning).

#### What are matchbacks and how do I set them up?

For a detailed guide to matchbacks, please consult the "Step by step: matchbacks" information sheet.