

Object schedules

Real / functional objects that are used within the task indicate what is going to happen and the order the events will happen in. Object schedules are helpful for children who find it difficult to understand that 2 dimensional drawings represent a real-life event. This object schedule is presented working from top to bottom and the young person's name card is used as a transition cue to indicate when it is time to check her schedule.



True Object Based Icon Schedule

Photographs are taken of objects and are printed at the same size as the real item, with the background removed to reduce distractibility. TOBI schedules help children to begin to understand that 2 dimensional objects can represent real life events. This TOBI schedule is presented working from top to bottom, although it is important to note that schedules can also be presented working from left to right. This child is using a picture of a doll as a transition cue. When presented with the cue, she takes the picture and posts it in the envelope below her schedule before checking to see what will happen next.



Photograph Schedules

Once a child or young person understands that 2 dimensional items can represent events, photographs can be used to communicate the events throughout the day. The first photograph demonstrates a photograph schedule that is presented from left to right. The child or young person would select the photograph of the toilet, which indicates that it is time to use the bathroom. Having completed this task, they would then select the next picture which indicates the next activity.

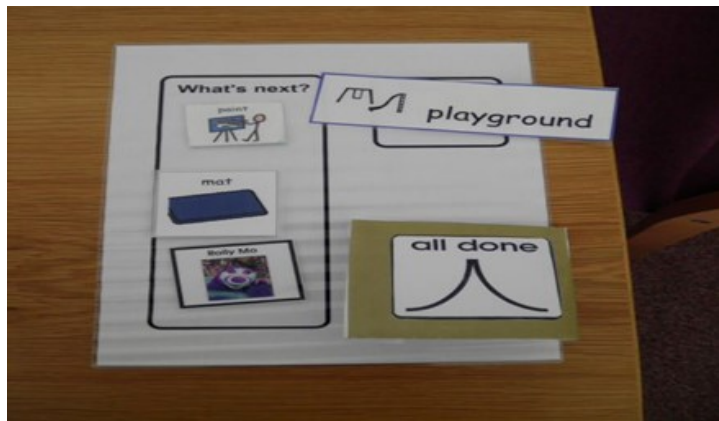
The second photograph shows the child matching the photograph from their schedule to a photograph in the area they are going to complete their activity. Photographs can also be posted when the child reaches their destination, if they have acquired the skills necessary for posting.



Symbol Schedules

Once a child or young person understands that a drawing can represent a real-life event, symbol schedules can be used. The first picture shows a symbol and word schedule showing what will happen during part of the day, rather than for the whole day. The events are shown in order working from top to bottom. The box at the top right of the schedule shows what is happening 'now' and the picture is posted in the, 'all done' pocket at the bottom when the task has been completed.

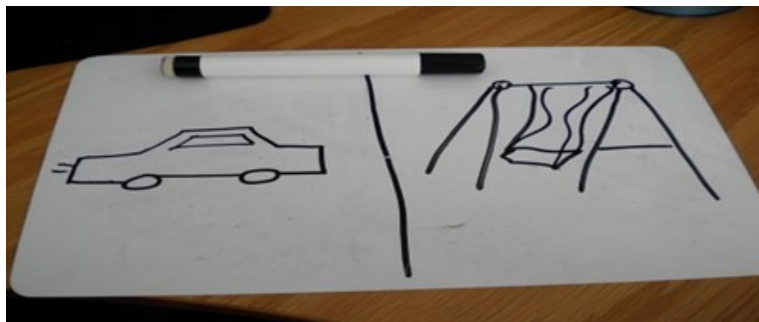
The second picture shows a full day picture and word schedule. You can see that the child has been given a choice of activity, 'play' or 'computer,' which has been communicated through the use of the pictures.



Symbol Schedules



Here are some more examples of symbol schedules. The first photograph shows a schedule that has been drawn on a whiteboard showing what will happen for part of the day. The child or young person will travel in their car, before playing on the swings. Each event can be rubbed out as it occurs, so that the child has a clear understanding of where they are in their schedule. Hand drawn schedules like these have the added advantage of being portable and highly adaptable.

Photograph 2 shows a symbol and word schedule that is presented working from left to right. Here Amy's name is being used as a transition cue. When Amy is presented with her name, or when it is positioned at the end of an activity, this indicates that it is time to check her schedule and she takes her name to stick it below the schedule.



Written Schedule

Written schedules can be used by children and young people with adequate reading skills to read and understand the vocabulary used. Items are checked off or stroked off as they are completed, so that the young person can see their progression through the day and what events are yet to be completed. Written schedules can be presented in diaries, Filofaxes or on iPads to ensure that they are age appropriate for older children.

Get up	
Eat breakfast	
Wash and brush teeth	
Get dressed	
Go to school	