

# Choosing Boards

## Why use visual supports?

- Visuals remain when spoken word “disappears”
- Visuals direct and hold attention
- Visuals allow more time to process information
- Visuals can support learning language
- Visuals can support memory
- Help adults slow down their spoken language
- To support understanding
- To be build independence
- To reduce anxiety

## Choosing Boards can:

- Support children to be aware of choices available
- Support children to extend play/ activity choices
- Reduce choice to prevent the child being overwhelmed
- Support children to extend engagement in play
- Support adults to reduce language
- Be used with other visual strategies such as “First, Then Board

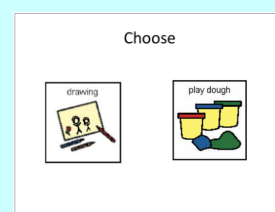
## Creating a Basic Choosing Board

- Choose your visuals e.g. real photos or symbols
- Print, laminate and add Velcro to the cards
- Create your choice board – a piece of card with Velcro or a printed choose board

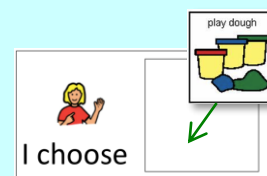
## How to use a Choosing Board

1. Start with two choices, which can then be increased – but ideally no more than five
2. Take the child to the board or take the board to the child (depending on the child)
3. Say “Name.. .....or ..... choose” (repeat if needed).
4. The cards should initially be placed as far apart as possible. (a)
5. Wait for a response e.g. eye pointing, gesturing, pointing, picking up the card, or using language.
6. Verbally repeat the child’s choice
7. Support child to transfer the chosen card to the appropriate place (where appropriate) (b)
8. Support child to engage in activity. (c)

**a**



**b**



**c**



## Top Tips

- If using photos preferably plain background, the less cluttered the better
- Using a printed choose board means everyone knows the board’s purpose
- Keep the board in the same place so child/ children can access independently
- If using the board for one child, it may be helpful to add the child’s photo