Visuals for Receptive Language
Going Beyond Visual Schedules!

Receptive visual supports can go far beyond visual schedules and First/Then Displays…they can be used to help students better understand new vocabulary, directions, prepositions, and other language concepts. Here are some ideas on how to use Noun Elements and Scene Cues in the classroom (and at home!) to support language comprehension for your students.

Noun Elements

Purpose: Teach nouns; teach the relationship between 2D photographs and 3D objects; augment speech with a visual. Many students who don't respond to spoken nouns WILL understand a photograph of the same word.

To Create: Take photographs of target objects. Store them on your phone or iPad, or print them and keep them on a binder ring or in an index card box.

To Use: Pair the noun elements with the corresponding spoken directive (e.g., "Match the truck," "Where's the truck?" "Get the truck"). Present noun elements to students on an iPad, phone, or as printed pictures.

"Where's your lunchbox?"

"Find your backpack!"

"Get a spoon."

Scene Cues

Purpose: Teach language concepts (e.g., prepositions, verbs); augment speech with visuals. Scene cues can be **static** (e.g., a photograph of the concept) or **dynamic** (i.e., a short video clip of the concept).

To Create: Take photographs (static scene cues) or short video clips (dynamic scene cues) that depict the target verb or preposition.

To Use: Target new prepositions and verbs during table-top activities, new tasks, and functional activities. Present the scene cues to the entire class on a Smartboard or via a PowerPoint. Present scene cues to individual students on an iPad, phone, or as printed pictures.

"Throw away the paper."

"Hang up your coat."

"Push the car"

HELPFUL TIP! Store noun elements and scene cues on your iPad or iPhone in **activity-based folders**.
Create a folder for each activity for easy access!

Boston Children's Hospital
Until every child is well