

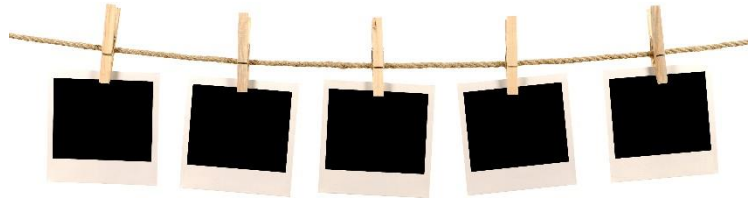
Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Visual timetables

A visual timetable shows children the routine of the day through a sequence of pictures or photographs that represent their activities. This activity will help you to create a useful resource to support all children's development.

Learning aims

- Understand routines
- Make choices
- Develop communication skills.



Resources

- Camera
- Paper
- Laminator
- String
- Pegs.

Activity outline

1. Take photos of your setting's daily routine, for example snack time, story time. Instead of photographs you could use symbols which would be helpful for consistency if parents want to use the visual schedule at home
2. Add a short written description to each image, ensuring they are consistent in design, then print and laminate them
3. Secure a piece of string to the wall long enough to display the daily routine cards
4. Peg the images to the string in order of your daily routine. Images should be hung at children's eye level. It is recommended that only six images are displayed at one time. If you have more than this you may want to create morning session and afternoon session timetables
5. Explain to children that the images show them what is happening in order throughout the day. Once the children understand the concept of the images/symbols and fully grasp the meaning they will begin to use the timetable independently, looking at it and predicting what activities are going to happen, and when

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6. After each activity either yourself or a child can remove the image from the string so children can see what part of the day they are up to.

Extension ideas

- Create a now and next board to break down the routine of the day into smaller steps for children who would benefit from this
- Create a question mark card (?) to indicate when there is an activity which is not part of the usual routine, e.g. a visitor to the setting, photograph day, etc.

NDNA products to support you with this activity

- [Supporting children with SEND](#) – Live Virtual Classroom Training
- [Autism awareness](#) - Live Virtual Classroom Training.