Say Less Show More
Visual Aids in Health for Children with Disability

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Background to this project

A problem
• communication difficulties for people with ID

Effective intervention
• visuals effective in aiding communication

Opportunity
• collaboration between health and disability professionals
Tony gets really distressed if he doesn’t know the person, and when they touch him without first explaining what they are going to do and how. Normally people go to the doctor and we know that the doctor will examine us. Tony doesn’t know this. So if this happens with no warning he’ll be upset (Tony’s mother).
People with disabilities may have problems with communication

Use pointing or other gestures (12mo).

Use single words or babble with adult-like intonation (15-18mo).

Speak in short phrases (2-3 yrs).

https://sites.google.com/a/middleschoolkcd.org/croatia/home/culture-and-arts/gestures
http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/05/08/parents-please-stop-the-baby-talk_n_7384004.html
Limited support of children with disabilities in healthcare

- Inconsistent and limited use of visuals in paediatric healthcare settings
- Play therapists- distraction, demonstration of procedures, stories
- Little or no clinician training in use of visuals
Visual aides-bridging the communication gap

First: work → computer

- wash hands
- fruit time
- drinks
- finish

- wait
- stop

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The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network

ACI: NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation

Koorana: Child & Family Services Inc.

Lifestart: Inclusion for children living with disability
Building on partnerships

ECIA/ECICP/NDIS → ACI-IDHN → Improved care → LHD
Development of the Visual Aids

Having a Blood Test

Physical Examination

Dental Examination
Shared goals and early planning

- Interagency steering group
- Carers, children and families
- Emergency Dept CHW
Visual Aids

Needed to consider:

- Range of ways to access the visual aides (ED staff & families)
  e.g. book, PDF, ePub, video clips
- Practicalities e.g. how and when to use the visual aides?
- Supporting busy staff with key information about using visual aides
- Realities of a busy ED!
Introducing the visuals in the Emergency Department

Local champions → Staff training → Use visuals → Evaluation → Sustained partnerships

- Local champions
- Staff training
- Use visuals
- Evaluation
- Sustained partnerships

Logos: The Children's Hospital at Westmead, LIFESTART, ACI - NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation, Koorana Child & Family Services Inc., and Sydney Children's Hospitals Network.
Sometimes just asking makes the difference

How does your child communicate?

What can we do to support them?

Is there anything you know is unsettling for your child?
Use visuals in healthcare

I am going to the Hospital.

I am having a blood test.
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