

# Say Less Show More

Visual Aids in Health for  
Children with Disability



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 The Sydney children's  
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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

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# Real Stories Real Lives

*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).*



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# 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).**



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<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](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/05/08/parents-please-stop-the-baby-talk_n_7384004.html)  
<http://www.susannewmanphd.com/when-you-cant-be-there-20-ways-to-stay-connected-to-children/>

# 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

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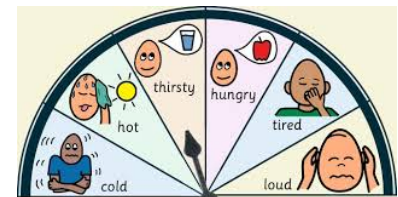
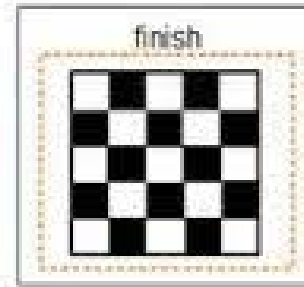
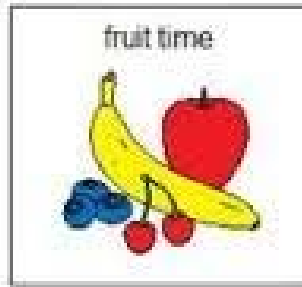
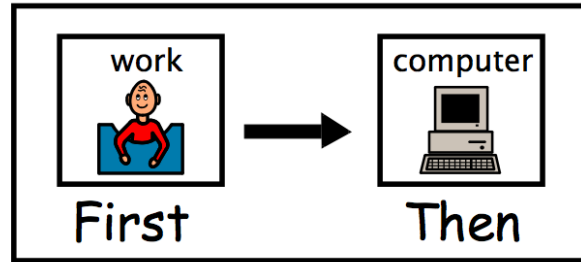
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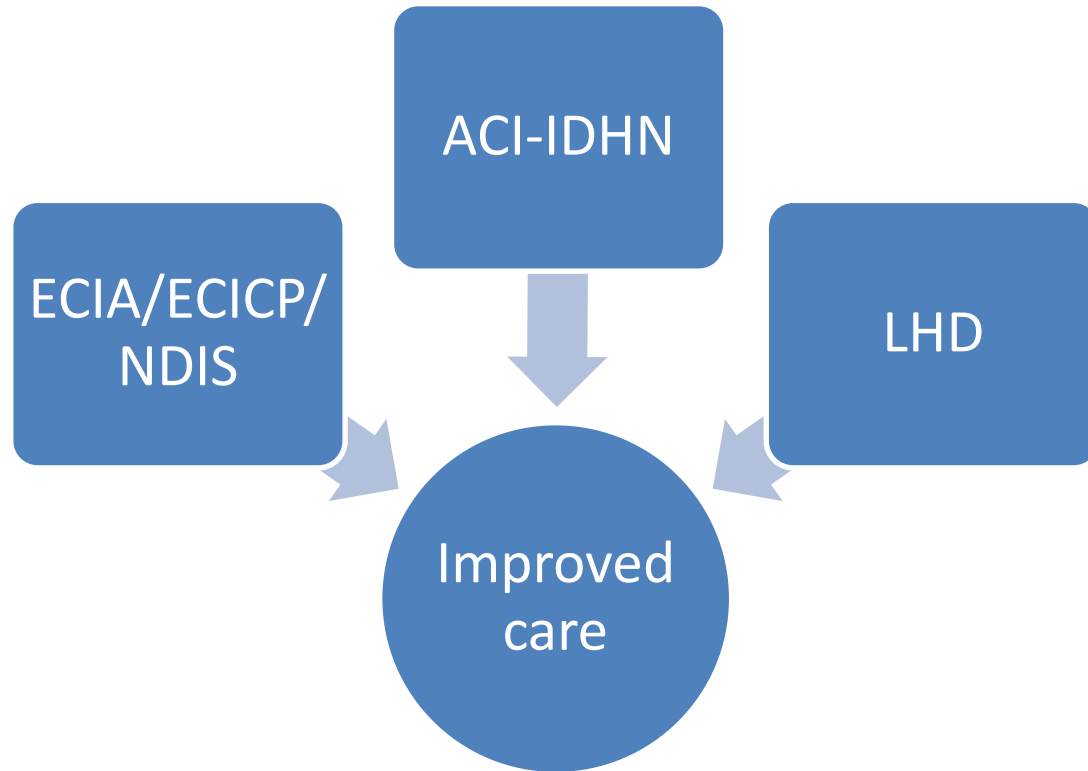
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# Visual aides-bridging the communication gap



# Building on partnerships



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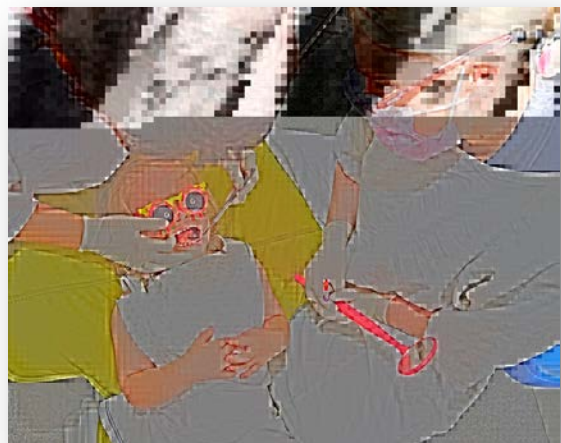
# Development of the Visual Aids



Physical Examination



Having a Blood Test



Dental Examination

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Inclusion for children living with disability

# Shared goals and early planning



Interagency  
steering group



Carers, children  
and families



Emergency  
Dept CHW



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# Visual Aids

## Needed to consider:

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



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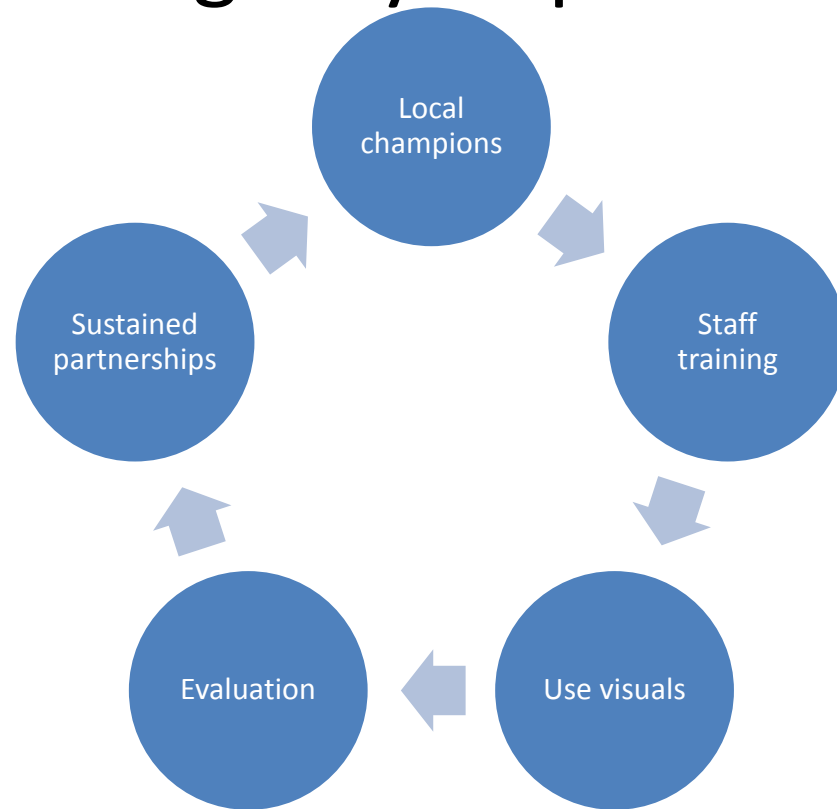
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# Introducing the visuals in the Emergency Department



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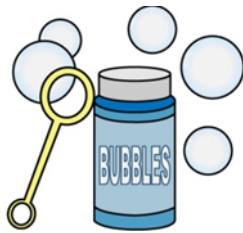


# Sometimes just asking makes the difference

How does your child communicate?

What can we do to support them?

Is there anything you know is unsettling for your child?



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# Use visuals in healthcare



I am going to the Hospital.



I am having a blood test.

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Inclusion for children  
living with disability

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