



LessonFizz

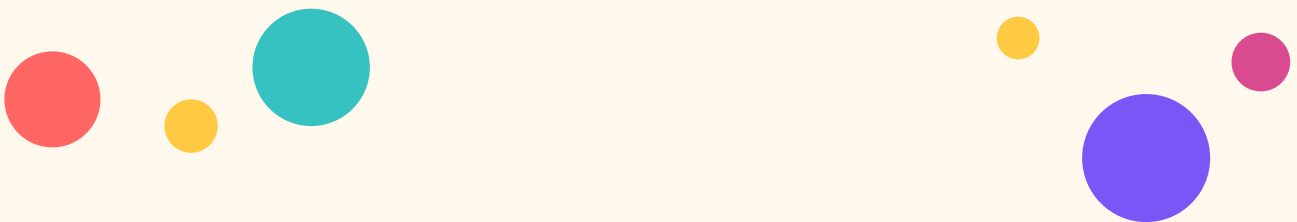
FREE RESOURCE

NOW & NEXT Visual Board

A simple, flexible communication support for routines, transitions and two-step sequences.

FREE PRINTABLE | AGES 2-5

Colour and printer-saving boards, First/Then option, two-choice strip, 24 routine cards and blank cards.



PLAN LESS. PLAY MORE. NOTICE MORE.

Print-ready A4 resource | UK English | Designed for practitioner-led adaptation

lessonfizz.co.uk



Make the routine visible

Use the fewest visuals needed. Real objects or photographs may be more meaningful than symbols.

Three simple steps

- Choose one card for what is happening now and one for what comes next.
- Point and say the same short phrase: 'Now tidy, next outside.'
- When 'now' finishes, remove or turn the card, then move 'next' into the first space.
- Follow through. If the plan changes, show and name the change calmly.

Helpful

- Use familiar photos or objects
- Keep language short
- Offer processing time
- Pair with gesture or sign
- Place at child height
- Celebrate communication, not compliance

Avoid

- Too many cards at once
- Using the board as a threat
- Promising an activity that may not happen
- Repeated testing questions
- Removing all choice
- Assuming one symbol works for everyone

Important

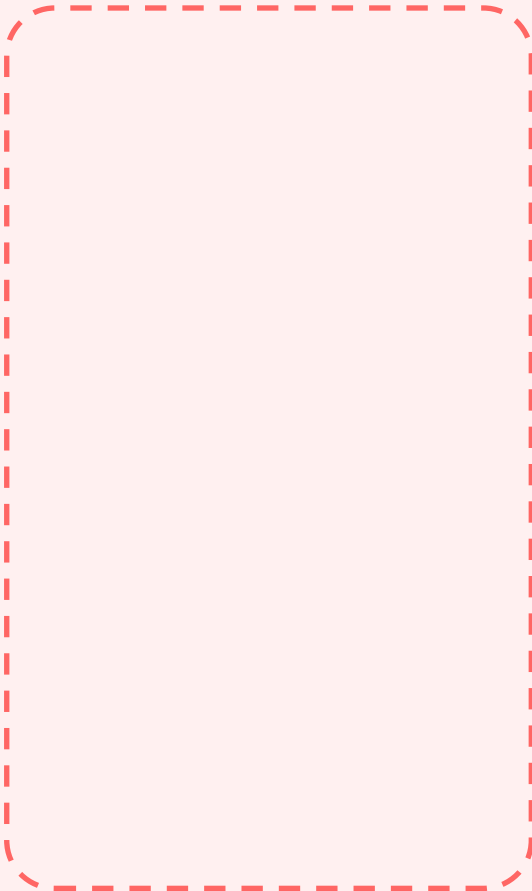
Visuals can support understanding, but they do not replace relationships, co-regulation, reasonable adjustments or professional assessment. Adapt for each child's sensory, communication and developmental needs. Keep magnets, hook-and-loop dots and laminated corners safe and secure.



NOW & NEXT

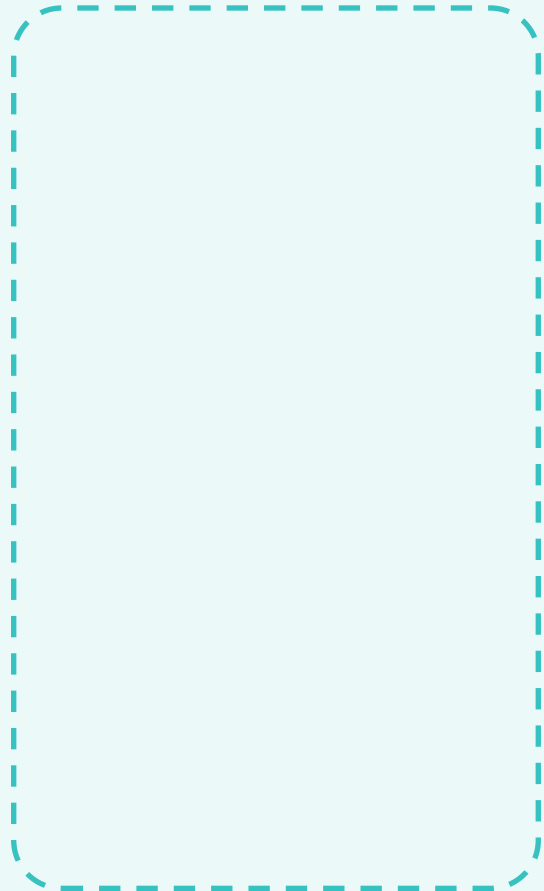
Best for showing the current activity and the activity that follows.

NOW



Place one visual here

NEXT



Place one visual here

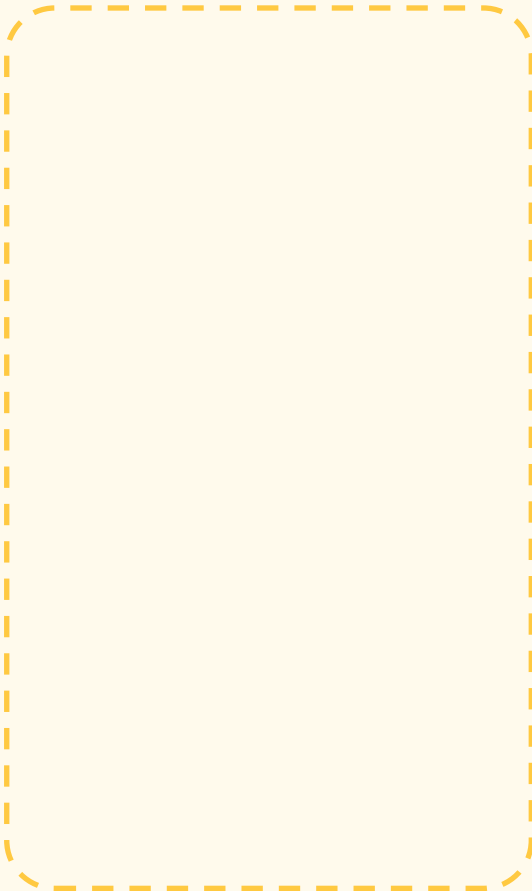
Use hook-and-loop dots, magnets or removable tack according to your setting's safety policy.



FIRST & THEN

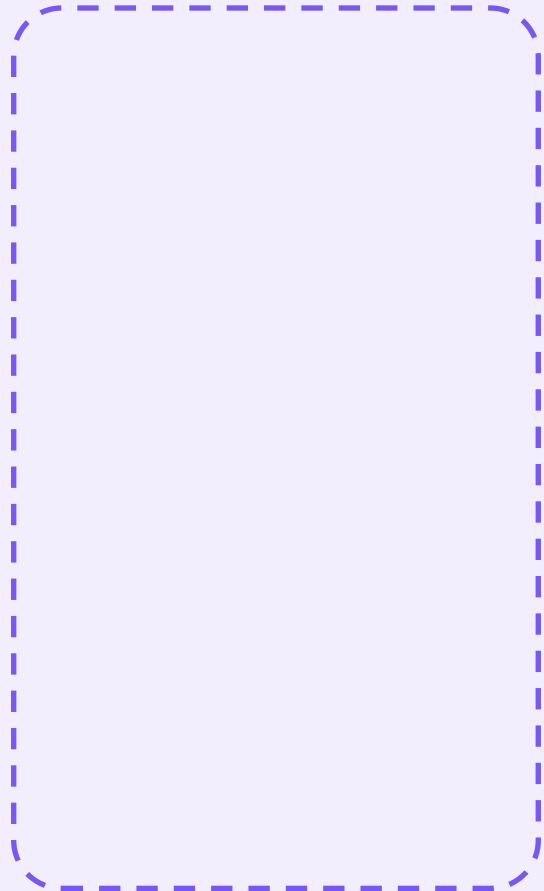
Use when this wording is already familiar and supportive for the child.

FIRST



Place one visual here

THEN



Place one visual here

Use hook-and-loop dots, magnets or removable tack according to your setting's safety policy.



Printer-saving NOW & NEXT

Add your own coloured border, photograph or object cue if useful.

NOW



Place one visual here

NEXT



Place one visual here



Two-choice communication strip

Attach two cards. Model the choice and accept touch, point, gaze, gesture, object or word.

I CHOOSE



Place one card here



Place one card here

Adult script

Show both choices and name them once: 'Book or outside?' Pause. If the choice is unclear, offer the real objects or model one. Honour the response when safe and possible. Avoid repeated testing questions.

Remember

A visual supports communication; it does not replace responsive interaction or guarantee that a child can follow a sequence.

Everyday care

Cut on the dotted lines. Pair symbols with real objects, gestures or photographs when helpful.



BREAKFAST



SNACK



LUNCH



DRINK



WASH HANDS



TOILET

Learning and outdoors

Cut on the dotted lines. Pair symbols with real objects, gestures or photographs when helpful.



NAPPY



OUTSIDE



GARDEN



GROUP TIME



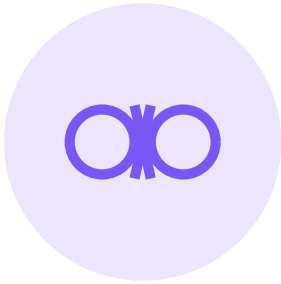
STORY



SONGS

Play and transition

Cut on the dotted lines. Pair symbols with real objects, gestures or photographs when helpful.



PLAY



SENSORY



MAKING



TIDY UP



COAT ON



QUIET TIME

Rest, home and support

Cut on the dotted lines. Pair symbols with real objects, gestures or photographs when helpful.



REST



HOME



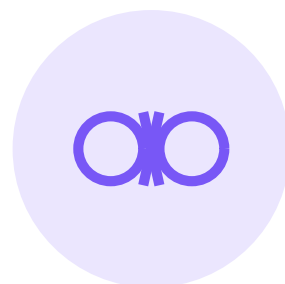
GROWN-UP



HELP



MOVEMENT



CHOICE



Make your own visuals

Draw, add a photograph or write the home-language word used by the family.

A rounded rectangular card with a purple border. Inside, there is a dashed rectangular box for drawing and a solid horizontal line for writing.

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Resource notes and licence

Practical information for the purchaser.

Licence

Licensed for use by one purchaser in one home, classroom or early-years setting. You may print copies for children in that setting. Do not resell, upload, share the digital file, or reproduce the resource as your own product.

Curriculum note

Designed with the EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers effective from 1 September 2026, and informed by Development Matters. LessonFizz is independent and is not affiliated with or endorsed by the Department for Education.

Official sources

EYFS statutory framework: gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2

Development Matters: gov.uk/government/publications/development-matters--2

Always use the current framework and your setting's policies.

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