

# PICTURE COMMUNICATION RING

Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe York  
Augmentative Communication Consultation Services (ACCS)

## WHAT IS A PICTURE COMMUNICATION RING:

- **A collection of picture communication symbols used to support understanding**
- **They are used to give information, communicate rules and support both receptive and expressive communication**
- Often organized on a ring or lanyard

## HOW CAN PICTURE COMMUNICATION RINGS BE USED??

### Receptive – For child's understanding

- Compile a small number of symbols to be worn **by the partner/adult**- take into consideration messages that the child may need visual support for understanding or motivation
- Use symbols consistently during daily activities
- Gesture or point to the symbol to show the student where to focus their attention, always pair words with the symbol (e.g. "Time to go to the library")
- immediately prompt or guide the student to perform whatever response is desired from the communication (e.g. Lead the child to the library)

### Expressive – For child to communicate

- Compile a small number of symbols to be worn **by the child**- take into consideration messages that the **CHILD** may want to communicate
- For most children, a picture communication ring should not be their communication tool; It serves as a back-up for situations where their full communication system is not available (outside, field trip, broken device).
- Encourage the child to use the symbols in situations where they are not understood and when another method of communication is not available

## EXAMPLES FOR RECEPTIVE COMMUNICATION (USED BY PARTNER/ADULT):

- Transitions- icons for specific places or events "library", "O'Canada"
- Rules/safety- "stop", "help", "no hitting"
- Directions- "sit", "stand", "stop",

## EXAMPLES FOR EXPRESSIVE COMMUNICATION (USED BY COMMUNICATOR/CHILD):

- Social interaction- "Can I play?", "My name is..."
- Quick messages- "I need help", "I need to use the washroom"
- Safety- "Stop", "Something is wrong"

## TIPS

1. Keep the number of communication symbols small, it becomes difficult to find symbols quickly in a large array
2. Keep expressive and receptive communication symbols organized separately for easy access
3. Consider having separate rings for different environments or purposes (home vs. school, outside vs. inside, in the community)