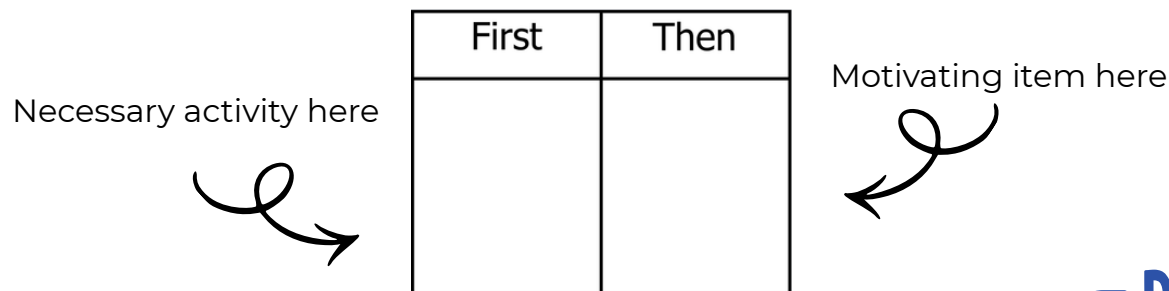




First - Then Schedule



A **First-Then** schedule is a simple two-step visual support that shows a student what will happen *first* and what will happen *next*. It pairs a necessary, maybe not so motivating, activity with a more preferred, or motivating, activity. First-Then schedules can help students understand expectations, reduce uncertainty, and stay engaged during transitions.



First-Then schedules are Important because they...

- make expectations predictable
- support receptive language
- increase task completion
- reduce confusion
- build independence
- support AAC users and emergent communicators



DID YOU KNOW?

A First-Then schedule **works best when it's personalized** to the student. Students should be able to choose an item or activity that feels meaningful, motivating, and worth working toward. When students make choices that truly matters to them, the First-Then schedule becomes a supportive tool rather than a compliance tool.



ASSEMBLY & USE DIRECTIONS

MATERIALS

Cardstock
Laminator or contact paper
Scissors or paper cutter
Hook-and-loop Velcro

1

Print

Print pages 3–12 single-sided at Actual Size or 100%. Use cardstock when possible.

2

Protect

Laminate the First-Then board and the card sheets. Clear contact paper also works.

3

Cut

Cut apart the activity cards. Rounded corners can make laminated cards more comfortable to handle.

4

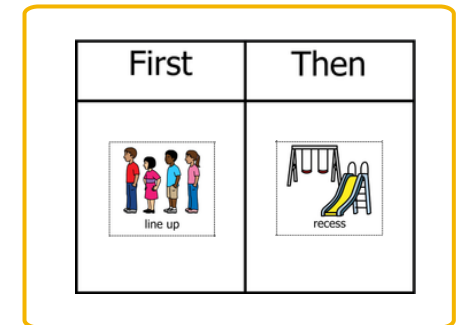
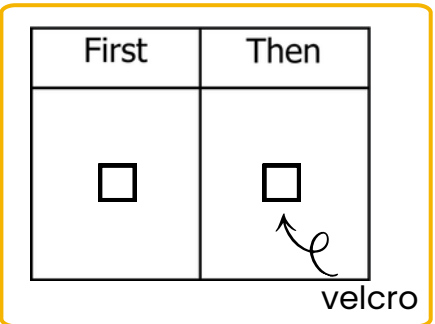
Add Velcro

Place loop-side (soft side) Velcro on the First-Then board. Place hook-side (scratchy side) Velcro on each activity card back. Keep the sides consistent.

5

Choose and place activity cards

Attach symbols to chart to support student understanding and engagement.



Keep small pieces and cutting tools under adult supervision.

First



Then



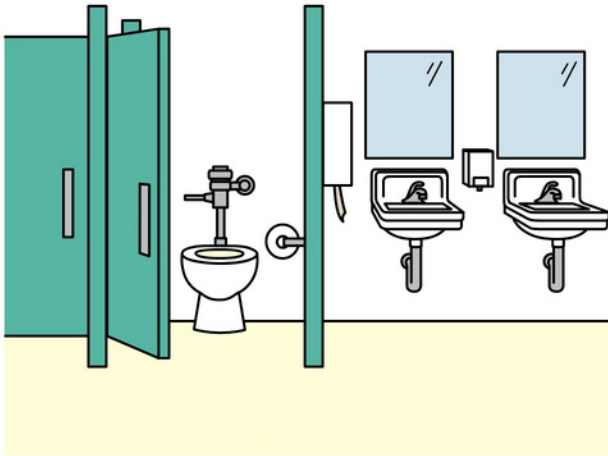
Transitions & Routines



Put away backpack



clean up

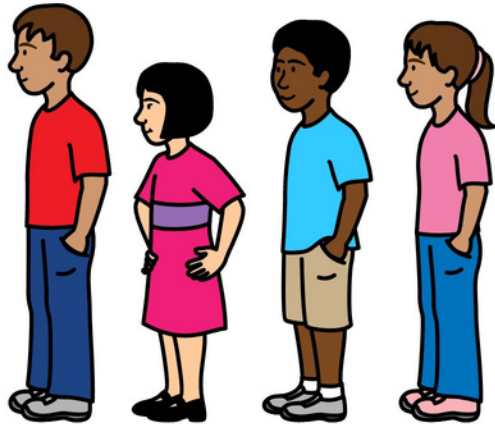


bathroom



wash hands

Transitions & Routines



line up



break



All done

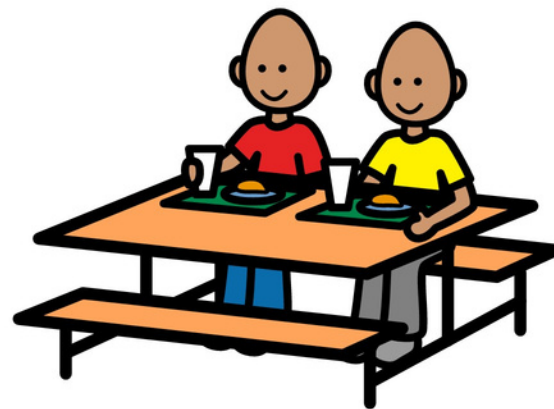


pack up

Transitions & Routines



snack



lunch



bus

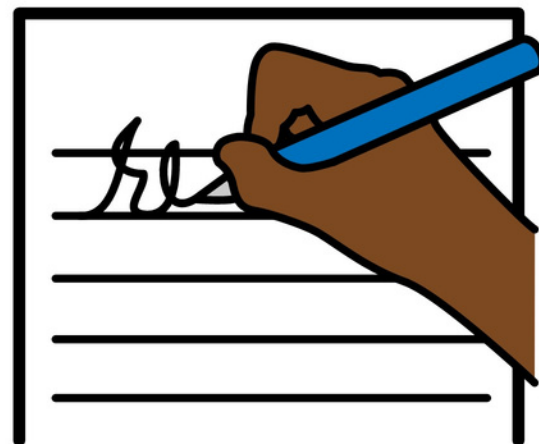


drinking fountain

Work Tasks



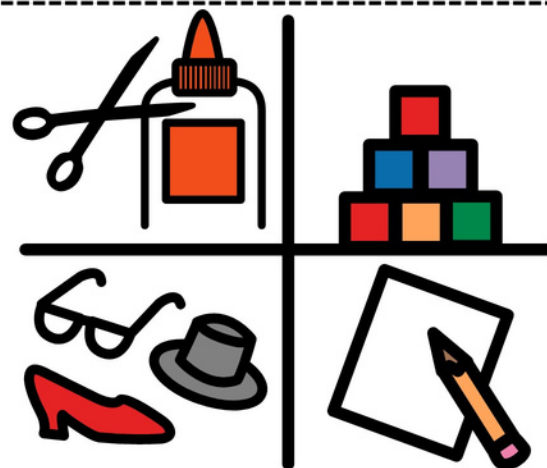
reading



writing

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline 5 \end{array}$$
$$3 \frac{1}{2}$$

math



centers

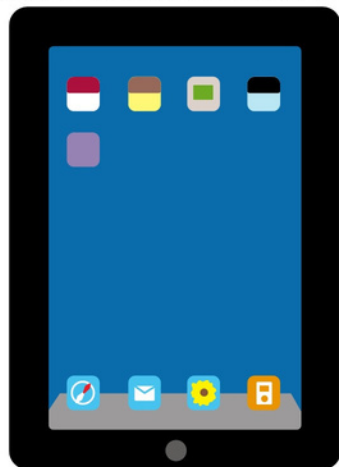
Work Tasks



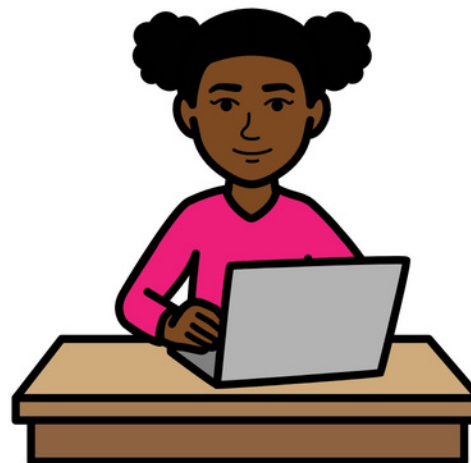
worksheet



computer

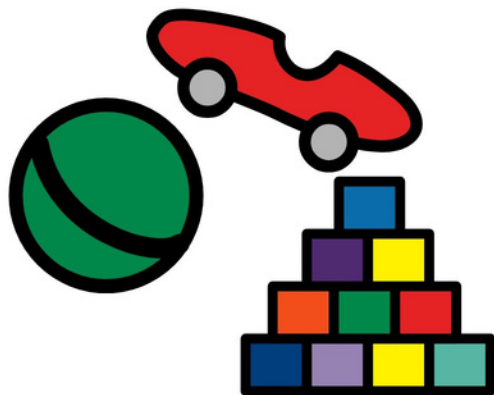


iPad

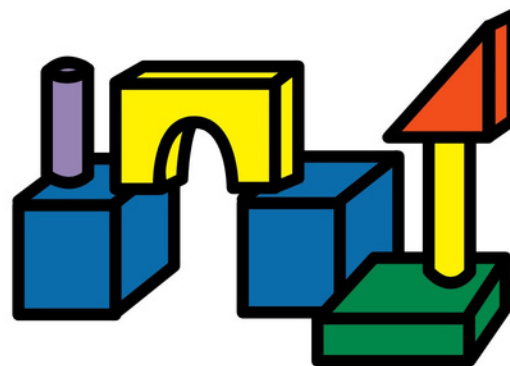


desk work

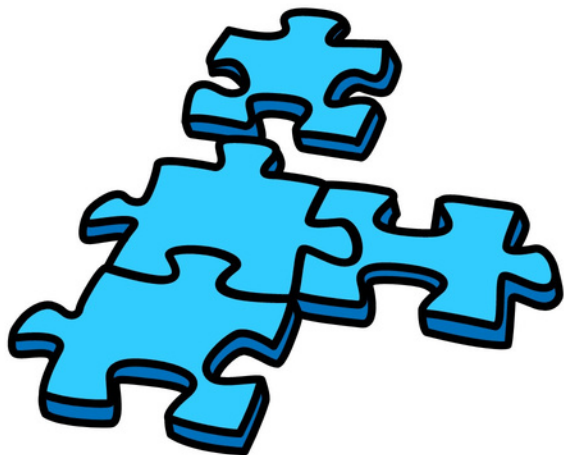
Play & Engagement



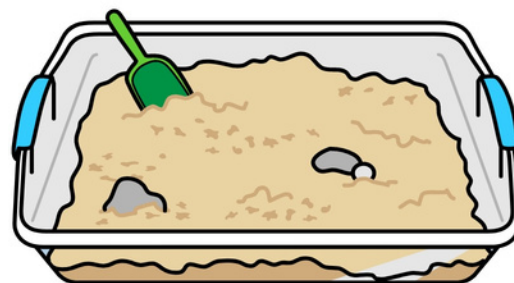
toys



blocks

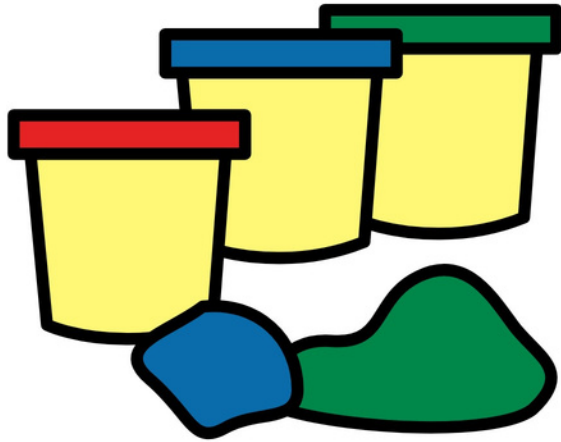


puzzle



sensory bin

Play & Engagement



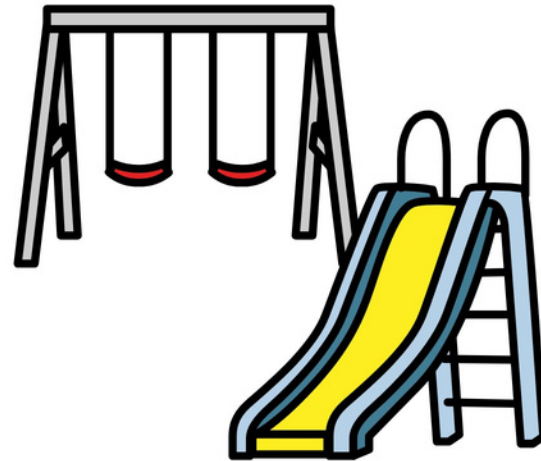
Play dough



art

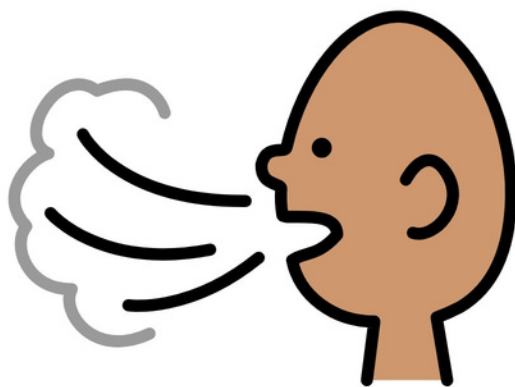


music

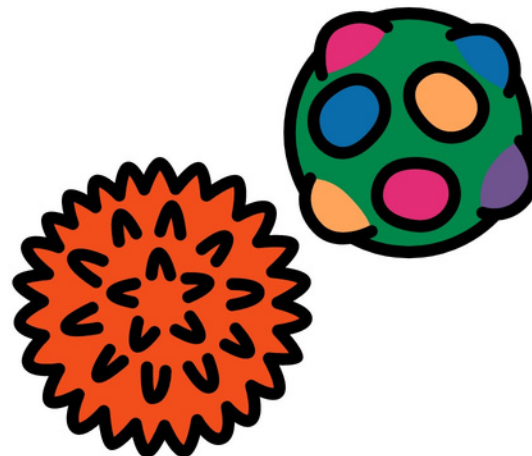


recess

Play & Engagement



deep breaths



fidget

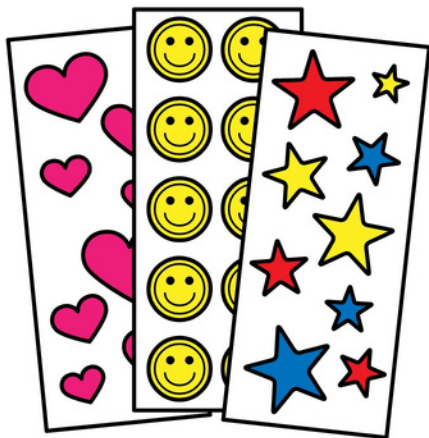


timer

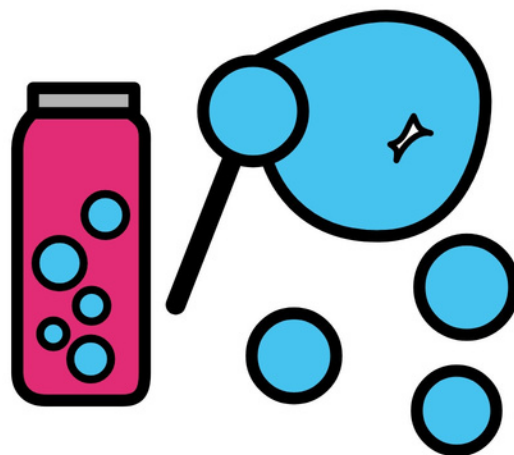


special

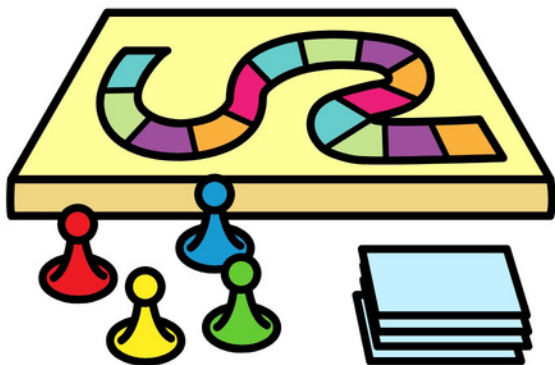
Play & Engagement



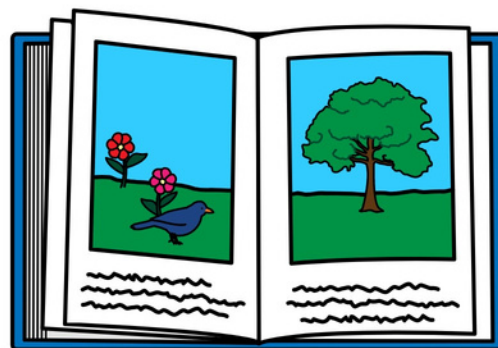
sticker



bubbles



game



book

Tip: Use this template to create additional items for the First - Then Chart.

Thanks for Learning with us!



Student Engagement Tools from DTA Schools!

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