

Patient Screening & Assessment (PSA): Autism Resources

First/Then Visual Supports

The first/then concept is a behavioral strategy used to clarify expectations and increase compliance in children with limited communication skills and/or behavioral challenges.

Hospital staff should assess the child's abilities and challenges during the information gathering phase. If the child is preverbal or struggles to use words independently, use pictures to show them:

"First (non-preferred), Then (preferred)"



"First ear doctor, then lollipop"

The second item should always be something the child likes!

Use the "first, then" method only when you can follow through with immediate reinforcement and pair difficult tasks with easy tasks (e.g., first medicine then break.)

Printable visuals are included in this guide for use by caregivers and hospital staff:

1. First

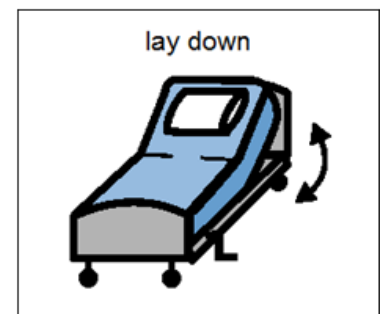
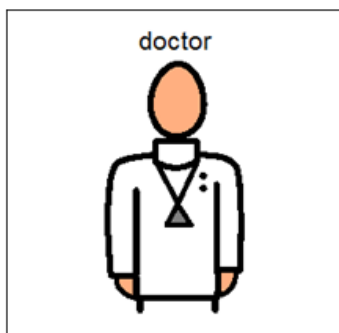
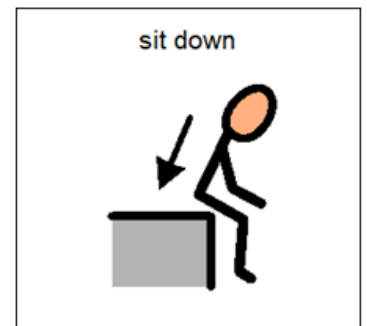
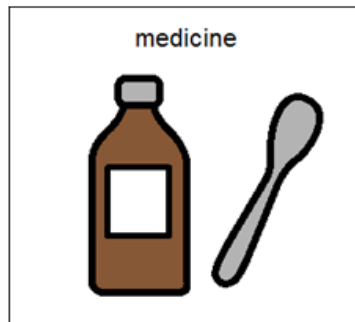
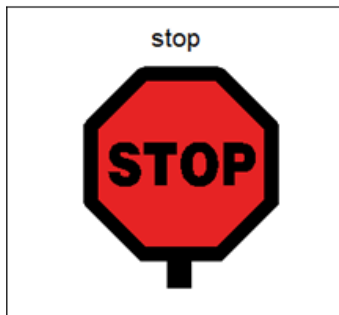
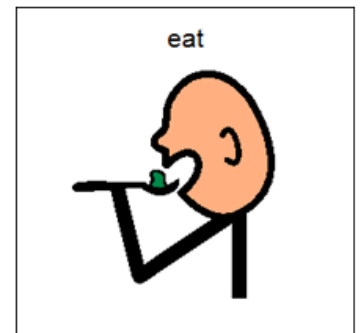
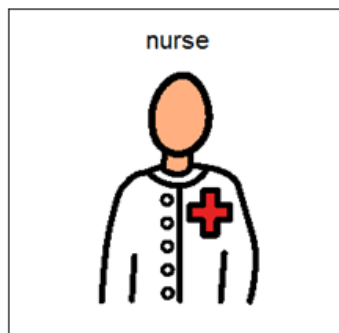
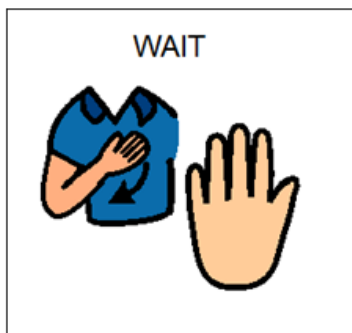
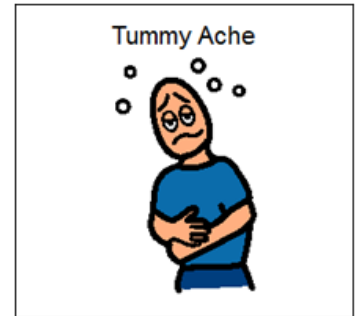
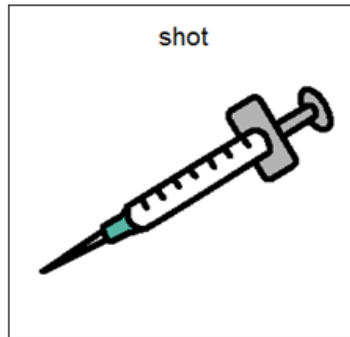
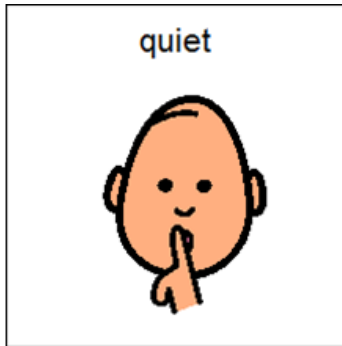


2. Then



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First/Then Visual Supports



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First/Then Visual Supports

bathroom



wash hands



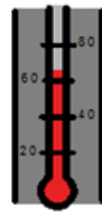
sad



hold hands



temperature



walk



open mouth



put in trash



TV



all done



happy



open eyes

