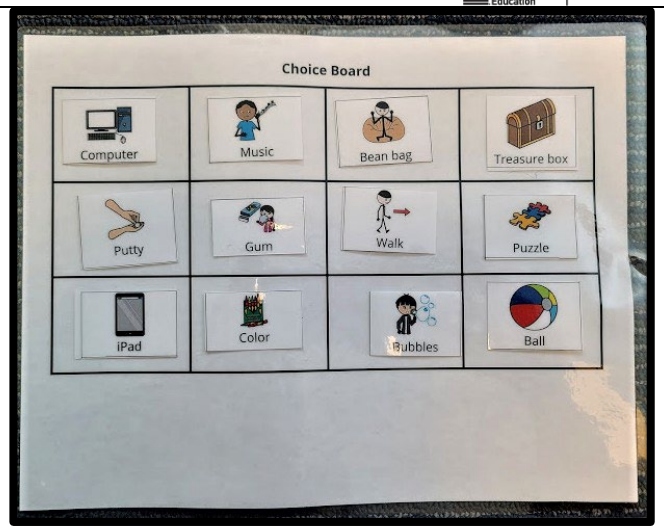
TN-TAN TENNESSEE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK | VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Choice Boards - An Overview

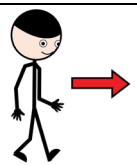
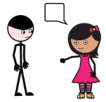
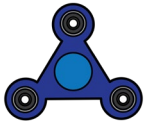
Evidence-Based Practice Link	Choice boards are a form of ***visual support***, which is an evidence-based practice for autistic students. Visual supports are defined as a "visual display that supports the learner in engaging in a desired behavior or skills independent of additional prompts." (Steinbrenner et al, 29)
When to Use Choice Boards	Ideal instances to use choice boards with autistic students, or other students with or without disabilities, could include (but are not limited to) choosing: • reinforcers for after work time, • what story is read during circle time, • which independent work to do first, • which center to go to next, or • which peers to have join a lunch bunch.
Why Use Choice Boards	• Provides clarity on what choices are currently available • Promotes independence • Fosters student autonomy, allowing them a voice in portions of the school day
Critical Components of Choice Boards	1. Have an appropriate visual representation at the child's current skill level to denote choices student can make. 2. Start by including choice board items that are highly preferred. 3. Remove "unavailable" choices when they can't be chosen logistically (e.g., if it is raining, don't include the "slide" choice for the student to choose from). 4. Prompt the student to use the choice board when presented with an opportunity for choice. 5. Provide reinforcement to the student for making the choice by giving him or her the item/activity chosen immediately.

Choice Board in Action	
Assembly Tips	1. Print and laminate the choice board and choice option page. 2. Cut out the laminated choice pictures. 3. Place hard-sided Velcro on the individual choice squares on choice board. 4. Place soft-sided Velcro on the back of the choice pictures. 5. Consider adding a Velcro strip or taping an envelope or Ziploc bag to the back of the choice board to hold unavailable choices. 6. Place pictures on the choice board of available choices for the student before presenting the choice board to the student.
TRIAD Resources to Learn More	• Learn more about upcoming TRIAD training opportunities: triad.vumc.org/live-training • Module about visual supports here *Must create a free account to access

Steinbrenner, J. R., Hume, K., Odom, S. L., Morin, K. L., Nowell, S. W., Tomaszewski, B., Szendrey, S., McIntyre, N. S., Yücesoy-Özkan, S., & Savage, M. N. (2020). Evidence-based practices for children, youth, and young adults with Autism. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, National Clearinghouse on Autism Evidence and Practice Review Team.

https://ncaep.fpg.unc.edu/sites/ncaep.fpg.unc.edu/files/imce/documents/EBP%20Report%202020.pdf

Choice Board

iPad	Computer	Music	 Walk	Puzzle
Story	Swing	Slide	Game	Bubbles
Toys	Toy Car	Video	Color	Gum
Snack	Drink	Break	Bean bag	Ball
 Talk to a Friend	 Fidget spinner	Jump	Putty	Treasure box

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