

## Quick Tips for Using a 'No' or 'Not Available' Representation

- Create a visual representation of activities that your child requests or attempts to access frequently, but are not always accessible.
- Use the visual as a way for your child to know when this choice is and is not available.
- When the choice will not be available, place the 'no' representation over the symbol.
- When your child attempts to request the preferred activity when the 'no' representation is over it, show your child the visual and use a consistent phrase (e.g. we cannot go outside 'right now').
- Sometimes pairing a 'no' symbol with visual schedules and/or a timer can be very effective to show your child when the activity will be available again.
- Refrain from giving a specific reason as the reasons for saying 'no' will vary.
- **Be consistent**; be sure to put up the 'no' when it's not available.
- Once this is taught you will have to try to honor what the visual says (e.g. if you forget to put up 'no' and your child requests it, it would be best to allow him/her access for a short period of time and then put up the 'no' symbol).
- It is helpful if you have other choices available for your child when they request something that is not available.