Conversation Boards for Caregivers- An Overview

Evidence-Based Practice Link	Conversation boards are a form of **visual support**, which is an evidence-based practice for autistic individuals. Visual supports are defined as a "visual display that supports the [person] in engaging in a desired behavior or skills independent of additional prompts." (Steinbrenner et al, 29)
When to Use Conversation Boards	Ideal instances to use conversation boards with autistic individuals, or other individuals with or without disabilities, could include (but are not limited to): ● Mealtime ● Family time ● Extracurricular activities ● Unstructured play and leisure time ● At a restaurant ● In public places
Why Use Conversation Boards	● Promotes social interactions on a variety of topics. ● Provides structure for familial interactions. ● Fosters individual autonomy.
Critical Components of Conversation Boards	1. Have an appropriate visual representation at the child's current skill level to denote conversation topics and prompts. 2. Start by including conversation topics that child is familiar with. 3. Prompt the child to use the conversation board when presented with an opportunity to interact with others. 4. Set up opportunities to practice using the conversation board in various settings with a variety of people. 5. Provide reinforcement to the child for using the conversation board to engage in conversation.

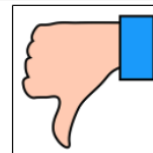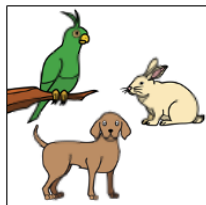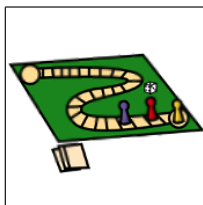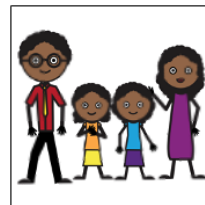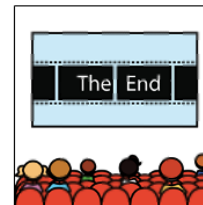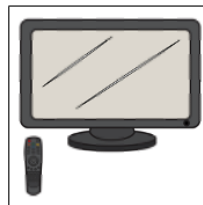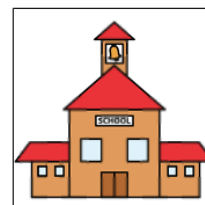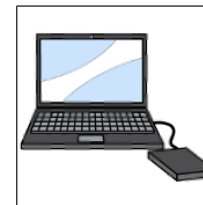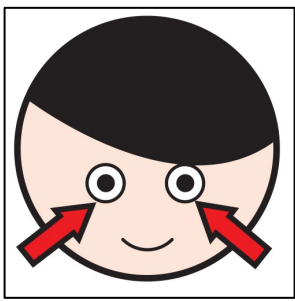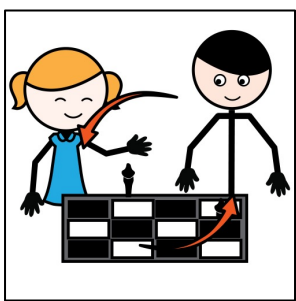|	
Conversation Board in Action	**Row 1:** Look at your partner — Take turns — Do you like _____? — What do you want to talk about? — I like _____. — I don't like _____. **Row 2:** animals — food — weather — games — family — movies **Row 3:** music — sports — clothes — tv — school — computer
Assembly Tips	1. Print and laminate the conversation 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. Place pictures on the conversation board of available topic choices for the child before presenting them with the conversation board.
TRIAD Resources to Learn More	• Learn more about TRIAD's caregiver resources here: https://vkc.vumc.org/vkc/triad/forfamilies/ • Modules about visual supports and other caregiver resources 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.

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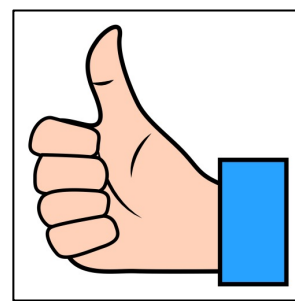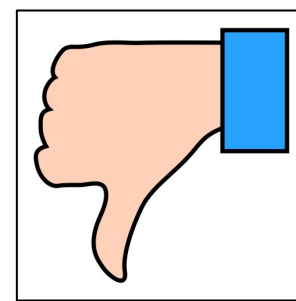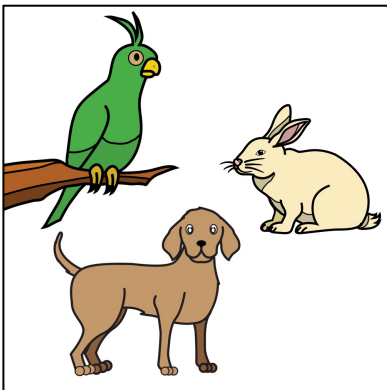
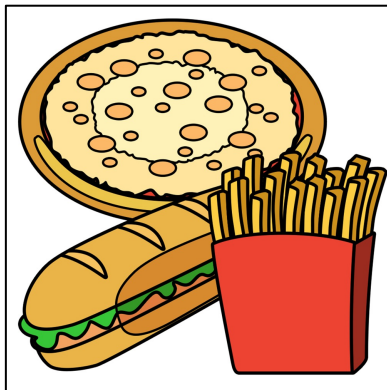Look at your partner

Take turns

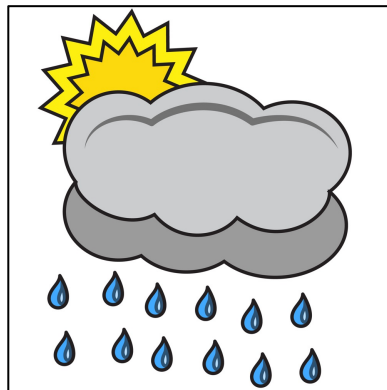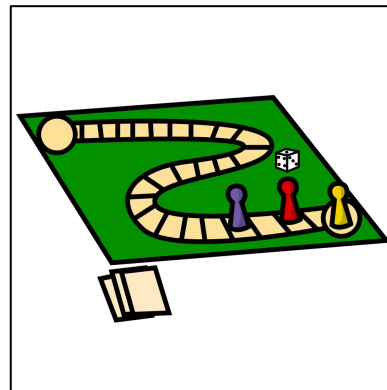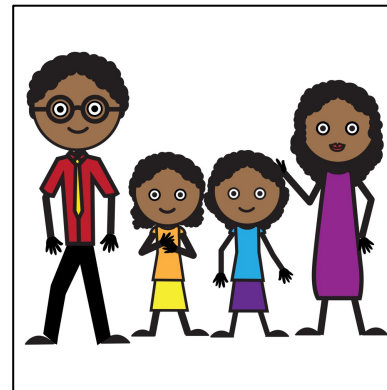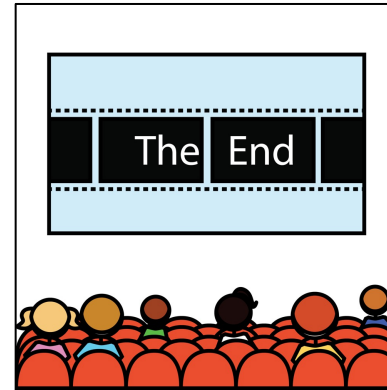Do you like _____?

What do you want to talk about?
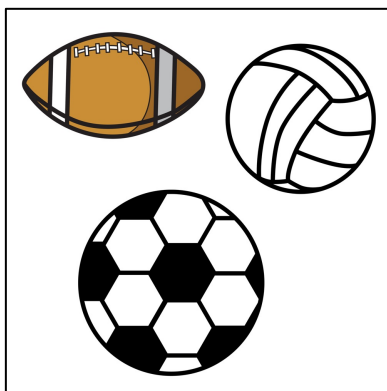
I like _____.
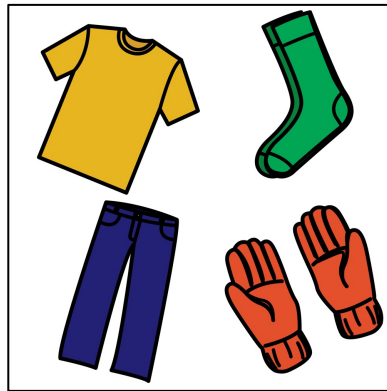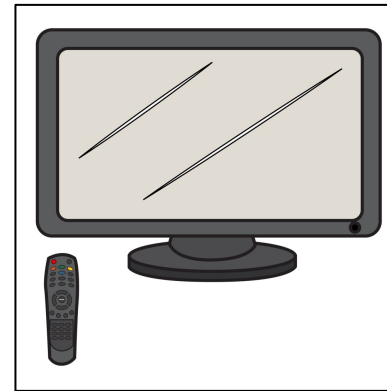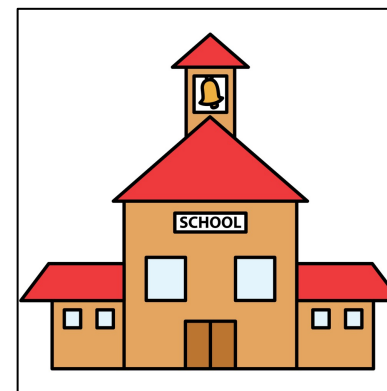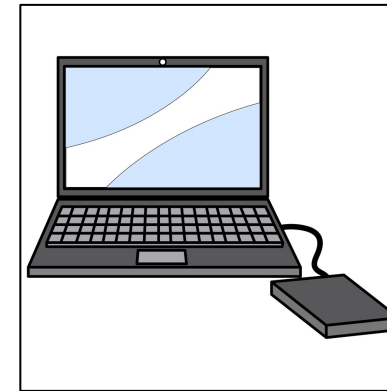
I don't like _____.

animals

food

weather

games

family

movies

music

sports

clothes

tv

school

computer