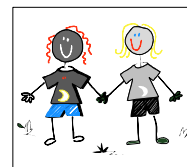


Information and advice from:



Early Development and

Early Years Foundation Stage

Using 'Now and Next'

The aim of a 'Now and Next' strategy is to provide a visual prompt to help children to move on from one activity to another or to prepare them for what will happen next.

The strategy can also be used to show them that a preferred activity (one which they find motivating) will happen, but after something else, such as, a less favoured or an adult led task. For example, 'Now puzzle, next bubbles'.

Knowing what to expect and when, can help to reduce anxiety for some children.

Who might benefit from a 'Now and Next' board?

- A child who has difficulty finishing one activity and moving on to another.
- A child who has difficulty moving from a child led activity to an adult led task.
- A child who is reluctant to participate in a particular activity, for example, mark making (in this case the second item on the board would be something which you know the child really enjoys).
- A child with limited attention skills.

Preparing a 'Now and Next' board:

Print or draw a board with two headings 'Now' and 'Next'. Laminating is a good idea. Pre-made resources are also available. Here are some examples:

Now	Next

⇒ <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/teaching-wiki/now-and-next-board>

⇒ https://makaton.org/TMC/TMC/SHOP/Activities_games.aspx

Choose photos, pictures, or symbols for the activities, appropriate to the child's level of understanding. These can also be laminated. Some children may benefit from the use of real objects.

Using a 'Now and next' board

It's very important that the photos, pictures, or symbols are introduced to the child and talked about. This will need to be done in context when the child is engaged in the activity.

The photos, pictures, symbols, or objects can be placed or stuck (using blu-tac or Velcro) to show what is happening 'Now' and what will happen 'Next'.

It is a good idea to point at the symbols and talk the child through, e.g. 'Now storytime, next outside'. The board can be placed near the child so they can refer to it.

Once the 'Now' activity is finished, encourage the child to take the symbol from the board and turn it over or perhaps have a box or envelope where it can go, to indicate it is 'finished'. Then look at the board together, point to the next symbol and tell them what it is.

Top Tips

Some children may benefit from a sand timer placed between 'now' and 'next' for some activities to enable them to see how long they must remain at a task.

The board can also be used as a reminder or a countdown, for example, show the child the board, point to the 'Now' photo and say 'one more turn (or one more minutes) on the trike, next it's time for story'.

Be consistent in using 'Now.../next...' and referring to it at each point of transition.