

'Sequencing' Strips

'Sequencing' strips are visual supports used with the spoken word. They can support a child with SEND to learn a new skill by breaking it down into easy steps, or to show the stages of a routine to support their understanding of our expectations.







Supporting the child's understanding of what is happening and what is expected of them can prevent their anxiety and frustration rising and prevent an escalation in undesirable behaviour.

With acknowledgement of original concept: *Wheeler, J.J., and S.L. Carter. 1998. "Using Visual Cues in the [Classroom](#) for Learners with [Autism](#) as a Method for Promoting Positive Behavior. Bryan, L.C., and D.L. Gast. 2000. "Teaching on-task and on-schedule behaviors to high-functioning children with autism via picture activity schedules.*


How do I use 'Sequencing' Strips?

1. Decide which sequence you would like to teach the child to complete. Start with something simple with just 6 steps initially and gradually increase the number of steps as the child progresses with their understanding to a maximum of 12.
2. Break the task into steps and select the pictures you need and stick them onto your sequencing strip

3. Example of a six step sequence strip: *Getting ready to go home*

 1 Shoes on	 2 Coat On	 3 Pick up bag	 4 Pick up Lunch Bag	 5 Wait for Mum	 6 Home
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Example of an eight step sequence strip: *Washing your hands*

 1 Tap on	 2 Wet hands	 3 Add soap	 4 Wash hands
 5 Rinse hands	 6 Tap off	 7 Dry hands	 8 Throw away paper towel

How do I use 'Sequencing' Strips? (continued)

4. Gain the child's attention and point to the board. Using simple language look at the steps together and also demonstrate what you would like them to do if appropriate so that you are completing each step together.
5. As you complete the steps, remove the picture so that the child can visually see that the step has finished and what comes next

What to do if the child is resistant to following the sequence

1. Continue to verbally prompt the child and showing them what you would like them to do. Keep your focus firmly on the task, not the behaviour.
2. If they continue to resist, consider returning to just 3 steps **Now, Next and Then** and then build up the number of steps slowly

'Sequencing' templates for you to print, laminate and use

Six Step Sequence Board

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Eight Step Sequencing Board

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8

Ten Step Sequence Board

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

Twelve Step Sequence Board

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12