

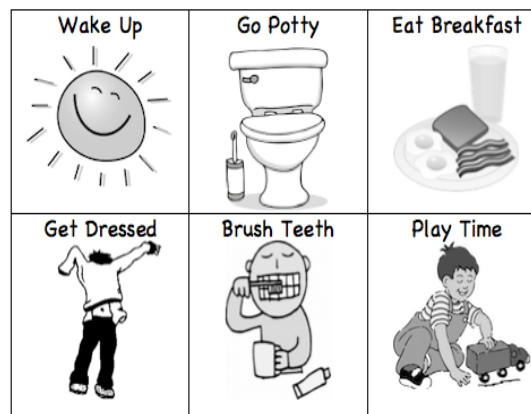
# Using Visual Supports at Home

Family Handout



Families can use visuals to teach social skills, reinforce or teach routines, teach behavior expectations, and/or prepare for new experiences. Visuals give children a concrete example of these skills when words aren't enough. Visuals can help children understand and learn these skills. Because pictures last longer than words, children can refer back to a visual more easily than they can recall what you said.

## MORNING ROUTINE



## First



Clean up toys

## Then



Eat a snack

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## Which Visuals are Best for My Child?

First, determine your child's visual stage. Depending on your child's developmental level, s/he may be more successful using objects instead of pictures.

- **Object:** use actual objects (see below)
  - **Photo:** use real photograph (see left)
  - **Picture Symbols:** use drawings (see above)
- CSEFEL, 2010

## When Can I Use Visuals

- To prepare for an upcoming change such as moving to a new house or starting a new preschool/daycare
- To teach or prepare for a change in your routine (e.g. going to the dentist or taking a trip)
- To provide extra support for your child if they are struggling with a skill (e.g. potty training or bedtime routine)
- To help your child communicate their wants and needs (see right)

## Offer Choices with Real Objects

