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.

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)

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)

Offer Choices with Real Objects

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Created by Marie Kohart