

Spectronics *Expertly supporting your choice*

Becoming street-wise:

Board-making tools for visual supports

snack	read	home
		



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What are Visual Supports?


Things that we SEE to enhance the communication process.



Why Visual Supports?

- Some people find the world to be chaotic.
- Expectations and demands they cannot understand may confuse them.
- Verbal instructions and explanations are often not adequate to provide the information needed in order to comprehend.
- These people (and others) often need the support of having information presented in visual form.
- Some people learn best through what they see, and using visual strategies builds on this strength.

From "Visual Strategies"
Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2000



Why Visual Supports?

- Many people are not easily able to understand spoken directions.
- It is not always obvious that a person is having difficulty because they may be quite adept at following environmental cues.

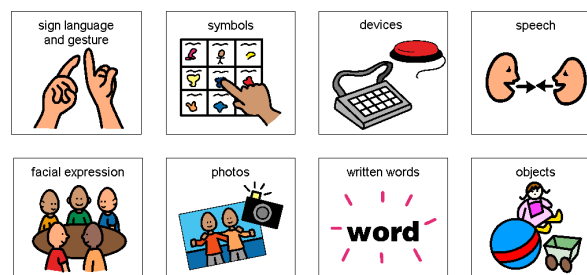


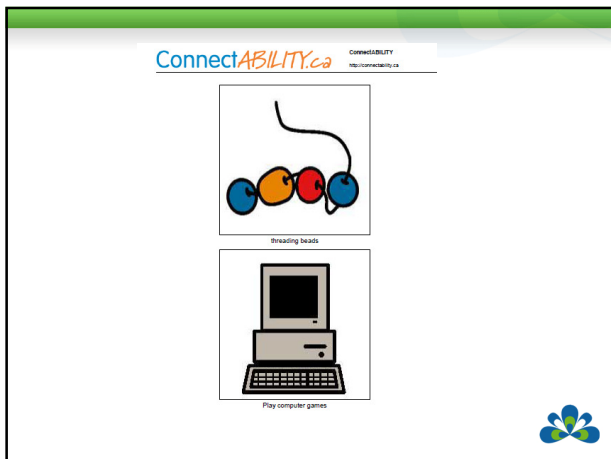
I hear and I forget
I see and I remember
I do and I understand



Types of Visual Supports

- **Body Movement:** such as body language, natural gesture, key-word sign
- **Environmental cues:** such as objects and signs e.g. logos, labels
- **Traditional tools for organisation of information:** such as calendars, shopping lists, recipes, instruction manuals
- **Specialised communication aids and materials:** such as picture stories, behaviour scripts, activity schedules

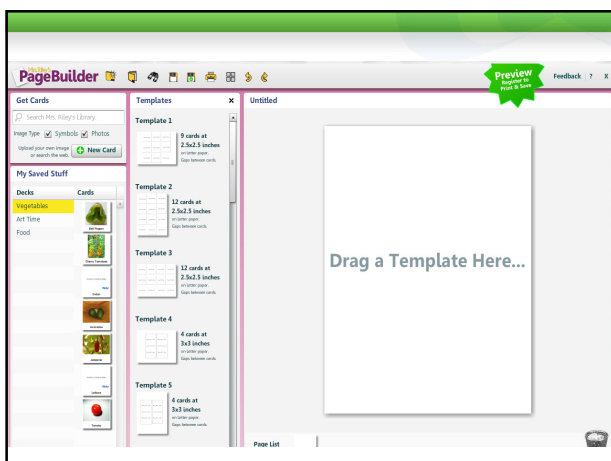




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Mrs Riley's Pagebuilder

- An online communication card/board building application with subscription fee
- combines photo symbols, picture symbols and text symbols in grid layouts of various sizes and configurations.
- Easy interface for communication board software.
- Free trial but no printing and saving
- Register for free 24 hour trial
- <http://mrsriley.com/home>



Mrs Riley's PageBuilder

1. Start with 1 cup of pancake mix.

2. Add one egg.

3. Add 1 cup of milk.

4. Pour batter into greased pan.


5. Flip the pancakes.

6. Pancakes are ready!

7. Pour syrup on pancakes.

8. Eat your pancakes.

Drag a Card Here...




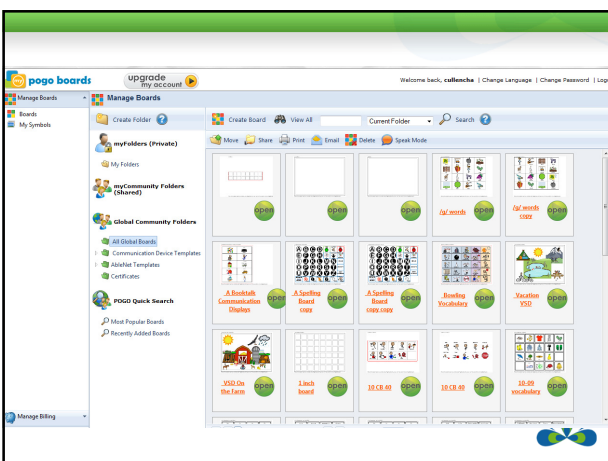
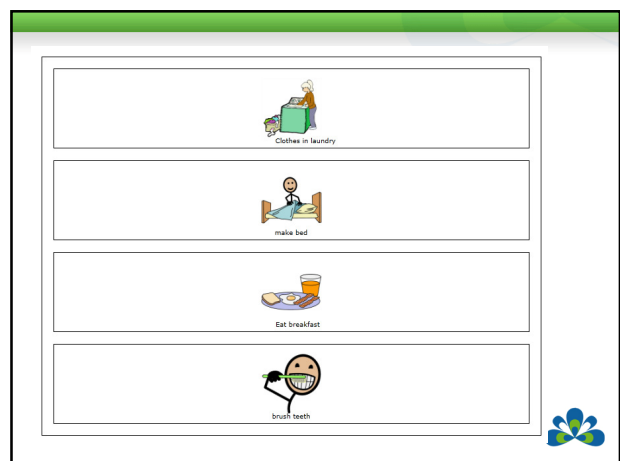
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Pogo Boards


- Online boardmaking tool with subscription fee
- Pogo boards requires Adobe Reader installed as well as Microsoft Silverlight
- 14 day free account but can not print without watermark.
- Support wise there are online videos for training and place to submit forms with questions.
- Uses combined symbol sets, new symbol set called PiCS, Symbolstix, images from Google Images and clip art images.
- <http://www.pogoboards.com/>

Advanced Subscriptions can be purchased on a recurring monthly or annual billing cycle. The price per user is displayed below.


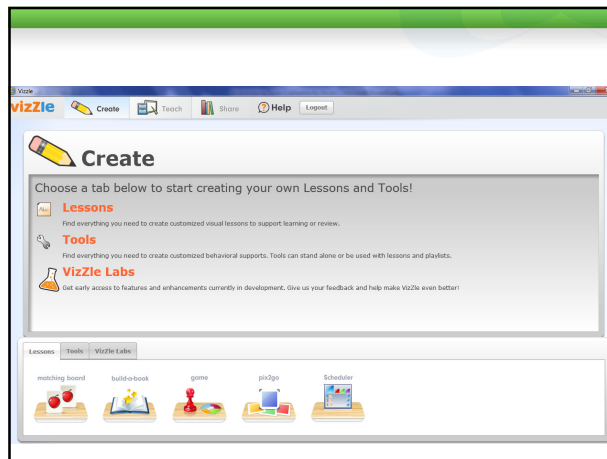
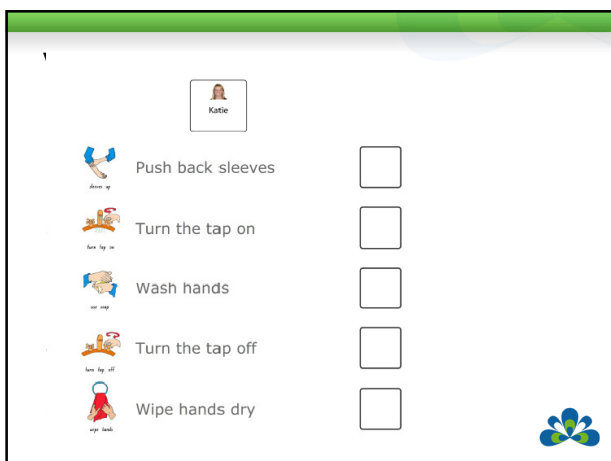
# of Users	1 Month (per user)	1 YEAR (per user)	2 YEARS (per user)	3 YEARS (per user)
1-4	9.95	\$69.00	\$99.00	\$129.00
5-10	⊗	\$49.00	\$79.00	\$99.00
11-25	⊗	\$39.00	\$59.00	\$75.00
26-50	⊗	\$29.00	\$49.00	\$65.00
51-75	⊗	\$27.00	\$45.00	\$61.00
76-100	⊗	\$25.00	\$42.00	\$59.00
101-150	⊗	\$23.00	\$39.00	\$55.00
151-200	⊗	\$21.00	\$37.00	\$51.00
201+	⊗	\$19.00	\$35.00	\$49.00

Vizzle




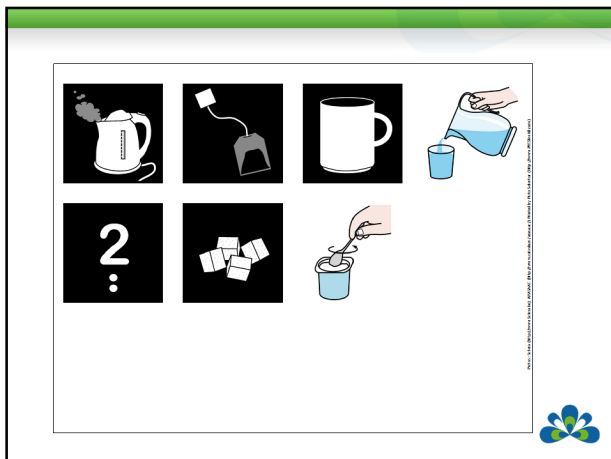
- Online program that allows interactive lesson and communication board creations, much like programs like Boardmaker Plus, Clicker 5 or Classroom Suite (only no scanning)
- Annual license – pricing based on usage
- primarily for students with Autism, although it may be used with students with many types of disabilities
- offer a 14 day free trial
- <http://www.monarchteachtech.com/vizzle/>

Picto Selector

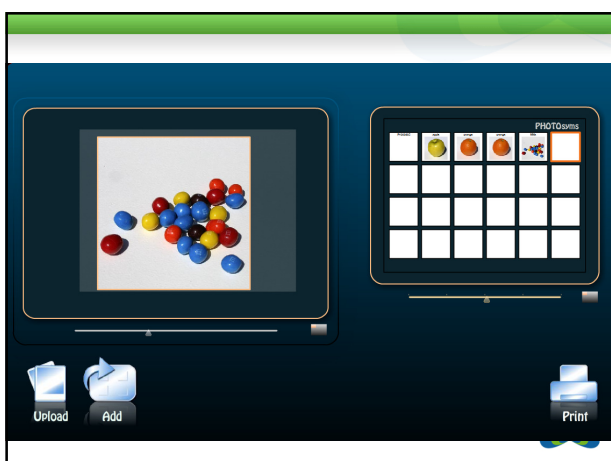
- Download and install for free
- Pictos come from the website Sclera.be, Straight-Street.com and ARASAAC and have a Dutch, English, French and Spanish translation
- Over 8600 picto's are available on the Sclera website. The Mulberry symbols (1700+) and ASRASAAC symbols (6000+) are also included in the download.
- Some communication device templates





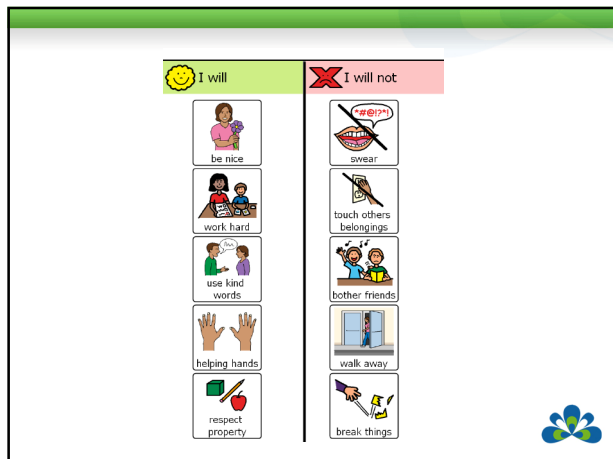
Photosyms

- A free photo communication board creator that you download
- use any image you have on your computer to make communication boards in grids from 2 to 24 symbols on a page
- flash based application
- quick, easy and free alternative if all you need to do is make boards
- runs in Windows and Mac
- <http://photosyms.org/>



Boardmaker Software Family

- Create printable or interactive activities
- Using Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) or other digital images – standard symbol library of 4,500 or add addendums and additional themed libraries for over 11,000 symbols
- Create your own board layouts, edit pictures, free form buttons etc
- Symbolate
- Lots of ready made templates
- Access Boardmaker Share for free activities at www.boardmakershare.com
- 30 day trial download available



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Tobii Symbolmate

- quickly and easily create effective paper-based symbol communication
- pre-designed templates and create your own
- Uses Symbolstix with around 15,000 line drawn symbols
- download page sets for free - have a look at www.pagesetcentral.com
- Free 30 day trial



What to look for?

- How widely used?
- User friendly
- Training and support
- Versatility – flexibility with editing
- Symbol sets
- Templates
- Online vs installed
- Shared pagesets
- Trial options
- Cost