

TEACHING TOOLS: VISUAL SUPPORTS

Adapted Books

~visual representation (e.g. symbols, video, photographs) and/or modifications of all or part of a book~
Adapted books are symbol-supported stories and books for children with communication challenges, including readers who use AAC.



Children need to be actively involved in handling books and interacting with family members and teachers during reading time. Adapted books support children's active participation in literacy activities. Adapted books can be purchased (see Resources) or can be created.

There are many ways to adapt commercially available books – or – create books with symbols on the pages to represent text. For example:

- Print, scan or copy pages from a commercially available symbol source (e.g. Boardmaker¹), pages from books, or use graphics and photos from the Internet. These pictures/symbols can be printed or attached (laminated & Velcro) onto book pages.
- Pictures and symbols on book pages should represent concepts depicted in the story.
- Pictures can be placed on a light box to help children with visual impairments see the pages.
- Books can be adapted with tactile symbols, especially engaging for those with visual challenges. Children often benefit from a variety of sensory stimuli in order to construct knowledge about objects being represented in stories.
- An advantage to creating and printing books from the computer is that you can enlarge the print and the images for children who have difficulty seeing the smaller size books.

Page turners: Children with disabilities and very young children who do not have the fine motor skills to turn pages can benefit from “page turners” and “fluffers”. These adaptations help make turning pages more accessible.



¹Mayer-Johnson, Inc. (n.d.) Boardmaker and the Picture Communication Symbols© 1981-2001 available from www.mayer-johnson.com

King-DeBaun, P., Burkhart, L., Musselwhite, C., & Rusham, E. & www.laredosid.org