

PLAY COMMUNICATION BOARDS

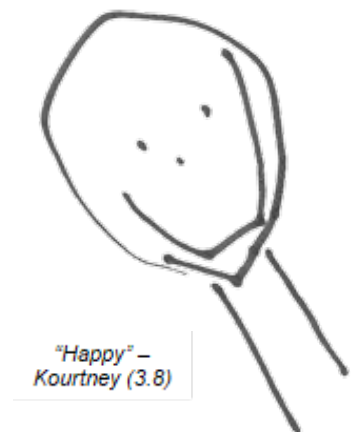
Our Play Communication Boards are designed to make Meerilinga's play spaces more inclusive for all children. They help boost social skills and language development, especially for those children who may find verbal communication difficult.

Through symbols representing common playground actions, emotions, and requests, these boards make it easier for children and community members to connect, make friends, and feel included. They also provide a chance for children and community to learn about and experience alternative communication methods, helping to normalise their use and make everyone feel welcome.

With these boards, Meerilinga is building a more inclusive environment that supports meaningful interactions for all children attending our early learning programs and visiting our centres.

Our play communication boards have been designed to:

- Provide an alternative way to communicate and express wants and needs
- Support executive functioning and processing skills
- Provide greater choice and autonomy
- Increase participation and opportunities to interact with peers, educators, family and community members.
- Reduce anxiety and frustration



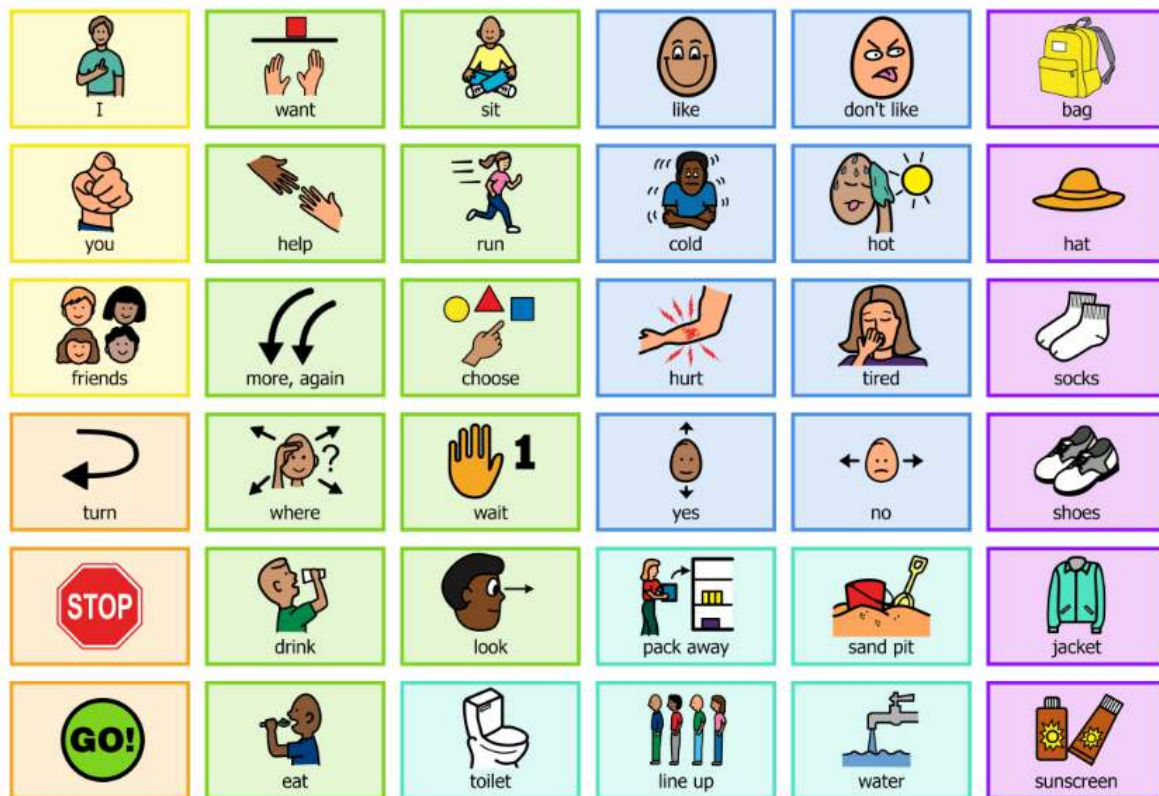
Using the board:

- Move close to the board so you can see the symbols and words clearly
- Point to the symbols as you say a word or sentence out loud. For example **"I want a hat"**.
- Encourage the person to point to the symbols to show what they want to say
- Watch, listen and give time for responses
- Encourage others to use the board.
- Use the board to include someone new in the play

Who benefits:

- Children who may have a language delay or disability impacting communication.
- Children who have difficulty maintaining attention and listening in difficult and busy environments.
- Children who have difficulty remembering information.
- Children who are learning English as a second language.
- Young children who are still developing language.
- ALL children develop their understanding and appreciation of alternate methods of communication, normalising nonverbal communication and fostering a culture of empathy and respect.

Where did the symbols come from?



Picture Communication Symbols® (PCS) are a set of simple, universally recognisable images developed by Tobii Dynavox to support communication and learning. These symbols help children, especially those with language or communication challenges, understand and express ideas, actions, and emotions. Meerilinga chose to become a licensed PCS publisher and use these icons for our Communication Boards because they are clear, consistent, and familiar to many children and educators.

Further Resources:

Tobii Dynavox PCS:

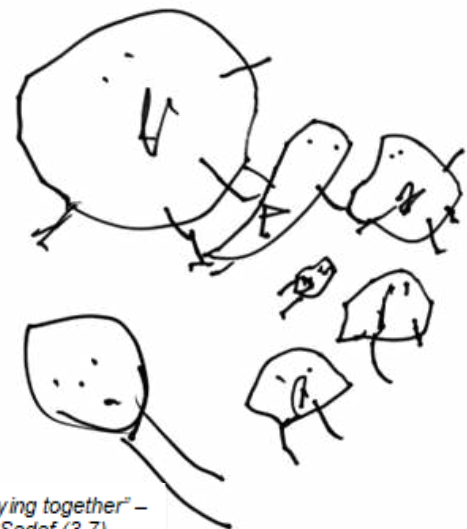
<https://www.tobiidynavox.com/products/picture-communication-symbols-pcs>

Augmentive and Alternative Communication: What is AAC?

<https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au>

Inclusive environments: ACECQA factsheet

https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-03/Inclusive_environments%20final.pdf



"Playing together" – Sadaf (3.7)