

Advice Sheet 38

VISUAL AIDS, CUES AND MESSAGES

Many pupils have difficulty in following oral instructions or recalling events / discussions. Some pupils also have difficulty in behaving or acting appropriately. One possible way of supporting pupils with their learning and their behaviour is to use visual aids, cues and messages. These are some suggestions:

1. Give the pupil a visual timetable (see Advice Sheet 16: *Timetables*).
2. Use the blackboard / whiteboard to visually represent some of the topics being discussed in a lesson – this can be in written format or diagrammatically or using mind-maps / concept maps.
3. Use clip art and images from the internet and software packages to brighten up posters, messages, (e.g. 'thought of the week'), notes home, rule reminders etc.
4. Use concept-mapping software (such as this example from Kidspiration / Inspiration) to help pupils grasp concepts and content.
5. Give a visual reminder of the subject / textbook / page by writing them on the blackboard /whiteboard.
6. Present class rules / class behaviour agreement (Advice Sheet 12) in written and in graphical format. Use photographs of the pupils to demonstrate correct following of rules and routines.
7. Help and encourage pupils to use visual aids and visual cues in communicating with others and in presenting their work.
8. For a pupil who may be prone to impulsivity, create a simple card for their desk or pencil case like this:

