



{inclusion outreach}

1031 Lucas Avenue
Victoria, BC V8X 5L2
Tel 250-595-2088

www.inclusionoutreach.ca

Choice-Making

There are many opportunities to make choices throughout the school day. The opportunity to make choices can mean the difference between being a passive or active participant in the environment. Aim for a minimum of five choices in each school day.

Strategies to Consider when Providing Choices:

- Label and talk about each option briefly. When appropriate, allow the student to touch and interact with the options, particularly if they are new to the student.
- Try to offer choices in a predictable way, keeping picture symbols or object choices in the same locations or positions, to help students scan and focus in on their choice.
- Never offer something as a choice if it is not really an option. Only offer options which are available to the student.
- Tell the student how you are interpreting their choice-making (e.g., “You are looking at the *red* felt. I think you’re choosing *red*”).
- If you can’t determine which option the student wants, tell them honestly that you don’t understand, and offer the choice again. You could say, “I’m not sure, did you look at the red or the yellow? Let’s try again.”
- When the student has made a choice, immediately present the outcome.
- Be aware that the student may not want either of the choices being offered. You can say, “You didn’t choose ____ or _____. I don’t think you want ____ or ____.” Offer two new choices, or move to the next activity. It may be helpful to have “Something Different” as an option in the student’s communication system.

Respect

Competence

Inclusion

Presence

Choice