

Symbolic Development Screening Toolkit

By Clare Mander

This toolkit has been designed to support carers to screen an individuals level of symbolic development. Symbol development relates to our understanding of visual information from the real object to the written word. The more abstract the form of the visual information the harder it is to understand.

It is imperative that symbolic development is screened to ensure that accessible resources are pitched at the appropriate level for the individual.

In addition to the 2D information provided in this toolkit you will need to source the real objects used in the toolkit

Screening Steps:

1. Start with the real objects
 - Present 3 objects
 - Ask the person to identify one object at a time e.g. 'point to...' or 'give me...' or 'where is the...' (if they are unable to do this reduce to 2 objects and try again).
 - If they select the correct object, praise them but leave the object there (removing the object and only leaving 2 makes the task easier)
 - Work through all 6 objects and record which ones they can identify.
2. Then carry out the same process with the photographs
3. Again, repeat the above process with the Boardmaker symbols.
4. Finally, repeat with the written word if appropriate.

Please note: if the person is difficult to screen or inconsistent results are found please liaise with Speech & Language Therapy

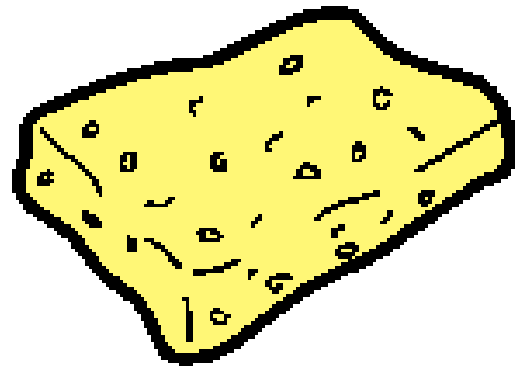
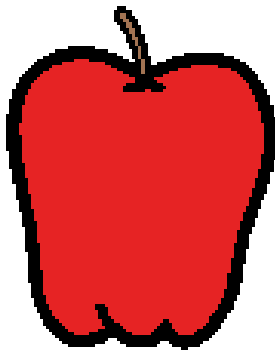
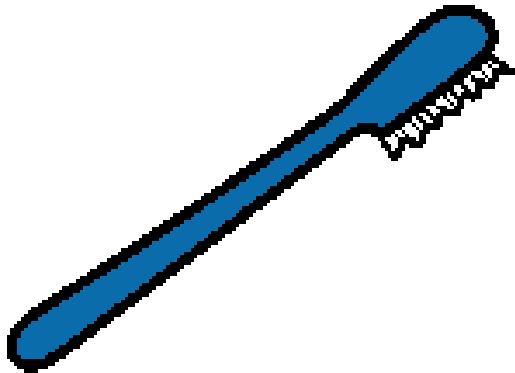
If in doubt, the safest place to start is with real objects!



Symbolic Development Screening Toolkit (Photograph)



Symbolic Development Screening Toolkit (Boardmaker Symbol)



**Symbolic Development Screening Toolkit
(Written Word)**

toothbrush

cup

apple

sponge

socks

spoon



Symbolic Development Screening Toolkit Recording Chart

Name: DOB:
Date: Completed by:

\	toothbrush	cup	apple	sponge	socks	spoon
Object						
Photograph						
Symbol						
Word						

Comments:
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