

Pyramid Model

Strategy of the Month

VISUAL CUES

What are visual cues?

Visual cues are pictures and words labels used to cue a child of what is expected in a classroom. These cues can remind a child of appropriate behavior and routines or help them navigate their classroom.

How does your child use this strategy?

Your child's classroom has visual cues all around it. Pictures cues are posted in learning areas to show them how to behave appropriately during routines (for example: a picture of eyes, a mouth, and ears are posted near the story time area to help children remember to look, be quiet, and listen when a story is being read). Labels on shelves and play areas show children and staff where materials are kept keeping the classroom orderly and helping everyone take care of their space. Your child's name (and sometimes photo) is used to label their personal areas and tells them that they are an important part of the classroom community and help them feel they belong.

How does it help support their social-emotional development?

Like adults, children benefit from visual reminders to help them remember what they need to do. Many times the picture cue becomes a "third party" that cannot be disputed and helps defuse power struggles between adults and children, this helps young learners regulate their own behavior and learn what is expected in a variety of settings.

How can you try this at home?

Visual cues are very easily added to your home life. Labeling areas where items belong (toys, shoes, coats, etc) encourage children's independence and helps them learn to be a contributing member of your family. Posted expectations are a great way to remind children without nagging them, helping both children and parents feel better about their time together.

*Ask your child's teacher more about
visual cues and how you can use this strategy
with your own child!*

For more information visit www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu