























Gravesham Early Years Specialist
Teaching & Learning Service



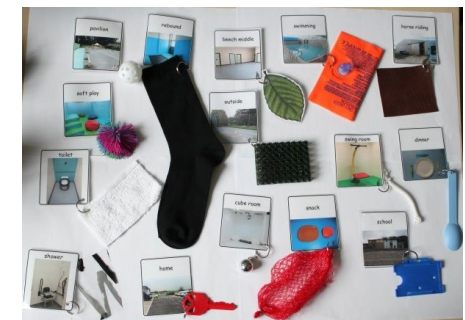
Objects of Reference

Objects of reference is a way of using objects as a means of communicating. Objects of reference are objects to which special meanings are attached. Objects, just like words, signs and symbols may represent activities, events, people and places. They are everyday objects that are consistently used to provide specific information.

							
intensive interaction	Thunder	magic carpet	attention autism	communication group	music		
							
rebound	swimming	cooking	art	riding	TacPac	star of the week	sensory garden
							
snack	phonics	assembly	softplay	sensory room	PE	woodland walk	trips out

Early Years Specialist Teachers
Ifield Smile - Specialist Teaching and Learning Service
Cedar Federation
Ifield School,
Cedar Avenue,
Gravesend
DA12 5JT

Tel: 01474 536924



How they are used

Objects of reference have a "common sense" appeal in that they can be quite straightforward. For example use a purse to mean 'we are going to the shops' or a bag, coat or shoe for we are going out. However experience has shown that different objects can mean different things to different people. Objects of reference are therefore individual. It is important that the objects are personalised and chosen to reflect the persons individual skills, preferences and interests.

- You could use real life objects (index object) e.g. cooking-wooden spoon- if the person uses a wooden spoon in cooking.
- An object related to the activity e.g. bath—empty bubble bath container.



What objects can I use?

Real life objects used in the activity:

The bottle of bubble bath used when running the bath or a bubble wand mounted on a piece of card and removed to use for blowing bubbles.

Objects not used in the activity:

An armband to represent swimming but not actually used in the pool.

Objects with a shared feature:

A piece of material to represent a hammock swing.

Miniature objects:

A toy car to represent a car journey.

Abstract objects:

An elastic band mounted on a piece of card to indicate going outside.

Multi-sensory items:

Songs, sounds, smells and texture associated with an activity or person.

Things to remember

For objects of reference to work it is important that:

The reasons for using them are carefully thought through

They are personal

They are used consistently

They are used frequently

They are motivating

Add a visual to the object of reference



Further Information can be found on the following websites:

<http://ace-centre.hostinguk.com/index.cfm?>

[pageid=3CDC028A-3048-7290-FE7DEA7A0060EF46](http://ace-centre.hostinguk.com/index.cfm?pageid=3CDC028A-3048-7290-FE7DEA7A0060EF46)

<http://totalcommunication.org.uk/objects-of-reference.html>

<http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/page/objects-of-reference>

<http://talksense.weebly.com/objects-of-reference.html>