

OBJECTS OF REFERENCE

How do I use them?

1. Select the person, activity or event that you want your child to understand.
2. Choose an object, it should be easy to understand:
 - An item used during an activity (e.g. nappy=nappy change, bowl = dinner)
 - A part of the actual object (e.g. rop=swing, piece of pottery = gardening)
 - Something that is not directly related but can symbolise the activity (e.g. a twig could symbolise going outside for a walk)
3. It is best to start with around 3 objects of reference for activities/events that occur very frequently. You can add more objects of reference later.



WHAT ARE THEY FOR:

Objects of reference are used to represent an activity, person or event. They are used to help a person understand what is happening in the environment.

Ideas

- Just before your child starts the activity give him/her the Object of Reference. Use a sign and/or speech (e.g. 'It is nappy change')
- After giving the object of reference it is important to immediately begin the activity to help him/her understand the connection between the object and the activity.
- It is important that objects are used consistently every time you do that activity
- When an activity starts, take the object of reference from your child and put it away. It is a good idea to have a consistent place (e.g. a bag) to keep to keep all the objects and put them away when the activity has started.