



Visual Schedules/Strategies and PECS

They are not the same and each is important for different reasons.

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Objectives

- Participants will become aware of:
 - What a visual schedule is
 - Reasons to use a visual schedule
 - What PECS is
 - Reasons to use PECS
 - The differences between visual schedules and PECS

What is a Visual Schedule?

- A visual schedule is a support used by the **student** to show what is going to happen during an activity or day; and in what order
- Visual schedules are individualized and may look different for each student in your class
- Visual schedules help to develop a routine and also help to introduce change to a student

Reasons to use a Visual Schedule

- Visual schedules can be used to:
 - Reduce anxiety and frustration
 - Reduce behaviors
 - Help to orient a student to where he is and where he is going next
 - Give the student more independence throughout his day

What is PECS?

- PECS is a language training package that is used to teach communication skills rapidly to those with limited functional speech.*
 - PECS promotes communication within a social context
 - PECS does not require prerequisites or expensive materials
 - Training in PECS begins by teaching spontaneous requesting
 - 76% of children using PECS acquire some speech**

*Pyramid Educational Consultants Incorporated

** Delaware Autism Program

Reasons to use PECS

- PECS is used to:
 - Teach students to initiate communication
 - Teach students to request, comment and answer questions
 - Reduce frustration and anxiety
 - Reduce behaviors
 - Give visual support to a partially verbal communicator

Key differences between Visual Schedules and PECS

- Visual schedules are used as a guide for the activity or day
- Visual schedules are context and activity dependent
- Visual schedules can be taught in a variety of ways
- PECS is a communication system
- PECS teaches students to initiate communication
- PECS follows specific phases and is taught following a prescribed system