**OBJECT CUES**

* An object or part of object can be used to refer to a person, place, object, or activity.
* An object cue supports understanding and meaning that is easy to understand.
* An object cue is known to the child. For example, a toothbrush for “Time to brush your teeth”.
* The size of the object cue can be reduced over time.

***Examples***

*Whole objects:*

* A cup is used to mean "Snack time, go to the table."
* A diaper is used to mean " Let’s change your diaper."
* A backpack is used to mean "Here’s the bus. Time for school."

*Parts of objects:*

* A section of straw signals "Snack time".
* The cardboard toilet paper roll signals "Let’s go to the bathroom."
* A piece of chain from the swing signals "It’s recess. Go play outside."

**Where do I begin?**

* Choose a routine or activity that your child enjoys. Example: bath time
* Choose an object that is used during the routine or something your child will recognize as part of the activity. Example: wash cloth
* Offer the object to your child. Your child may not want to touch it. That is ok, never force. Explore the object together, maybe touch the object to a body part that is acceptable, an arm or on his/her chest. Wow, isn’t this wash cloth cool!
* While holding the object tell your child what you will happen. Example: “Time for a bath.”
* Take the object with you and use it during the routine. If it represents an activity such as a buckle on a car seat (“Time to go in the car.”), take the buckle with you and let your child feel the buckle on the car seat and the object.
* Have fun!

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