

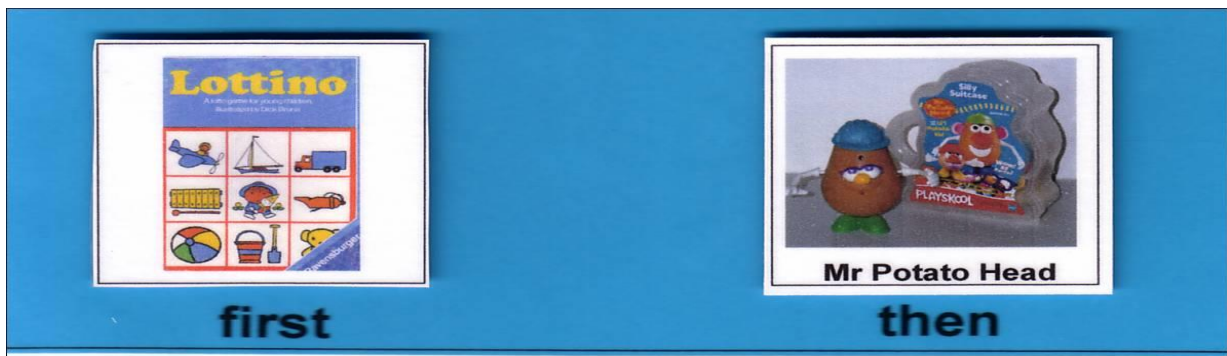


## Helping young children with ASD to communicate

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### What will I be doing?

Understanding the concept of first – then or to get across the message to a young child with ASD that they can have something later rather than immediately is difficult! The use of first – then pictures can help.



#### Used to motivate the child:

**First:** play lotto (undesired activity but goal for the child),

**Then:** play Mr. Potato Head (child's favourite activity)

- Used to motivate a child to participate in an activity they would otherwise avoid

#### Used as a 2-step schedule:

- For a child learning to complete a sequence of activities, a first-then card can be used as a 2-step schedule. The consistent presentation assists the child to learn the skill

#### Used to assist a child to move on to the next activity:

- For a child who demonstrates difficulty finishing a current activity and moving on to the next activity

For a child who demonstrates anxiety when unsure of the routine; finishing an activity can be anxiety-provoking because the child does not know what to expect next. A first-then visual can ease the child's anxiety by showing them what the next activity is.