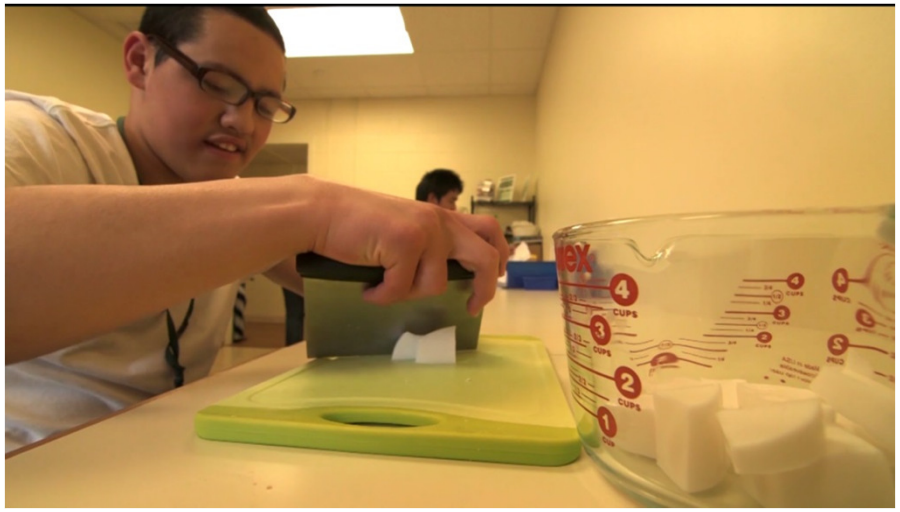
Monarch Center for Autism
A Division of Bellefaire JCB

Visual Strategies for Individuals with Autism that Promote Success at School, at Home, and in the Community



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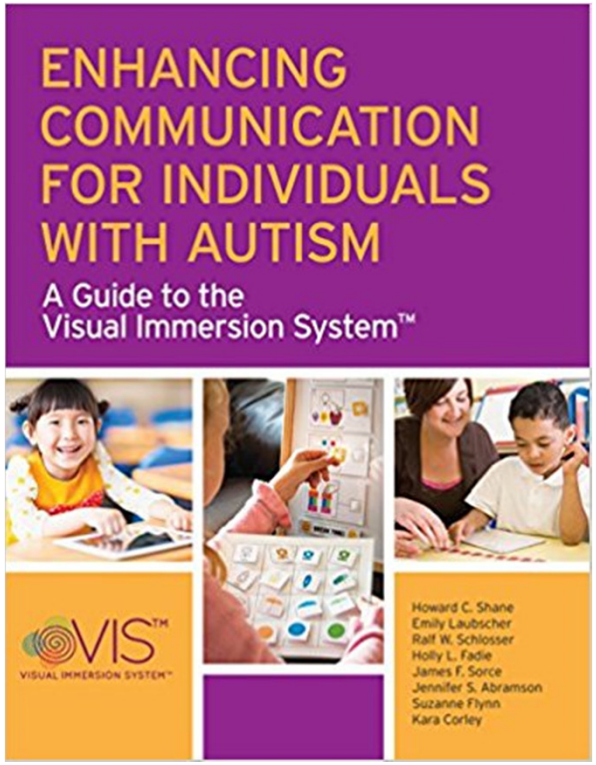
(Assistive Technology Specialist)

Visual Immersion System

VIS is not a curriculum per se but a way to increase effectiveness of an existing curriculum, activity, or event by providing accessible language as an accommodation to improve comprehension and facilitate expression.



Key Advantages of Visual Immersion Programming

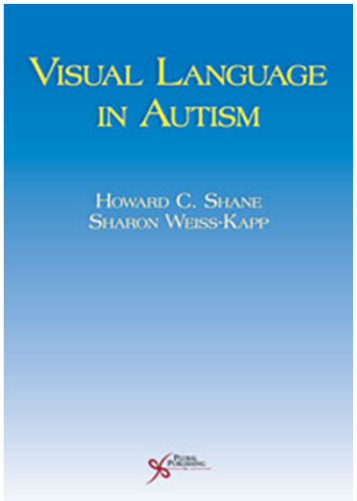
- Visual Symbols are the foundation of speech and language acquisition
- Uses all types of visual symbols (drawings, photos, objects, text, moving images)
- Makes optimal use of electronic screen displays
- Emphasizes comprehension as the foundation for communication while also providing an avenue for expression.
- Promotes the use of a range of parts of speech (not just nouns!)
- Allows the learner to move between broad dynamic and static scenes to single and multielement cues.

Shane, H.C., & Weiss-Kapp, S. (2008). Visual Language in Autism. Plural Publishing.

Application of a Visual Language

Through collaboration colleagues at Boston Children's Hospital, Monarch School uses a visual language strategy that incorporates the following framework:

- Visual Instruction Mode **(VIM)**
- Visual Organization Mode **(VOM)**
- Visual Expression Mode **(VEM)**



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"Spectrum" of the Visual Immersion System

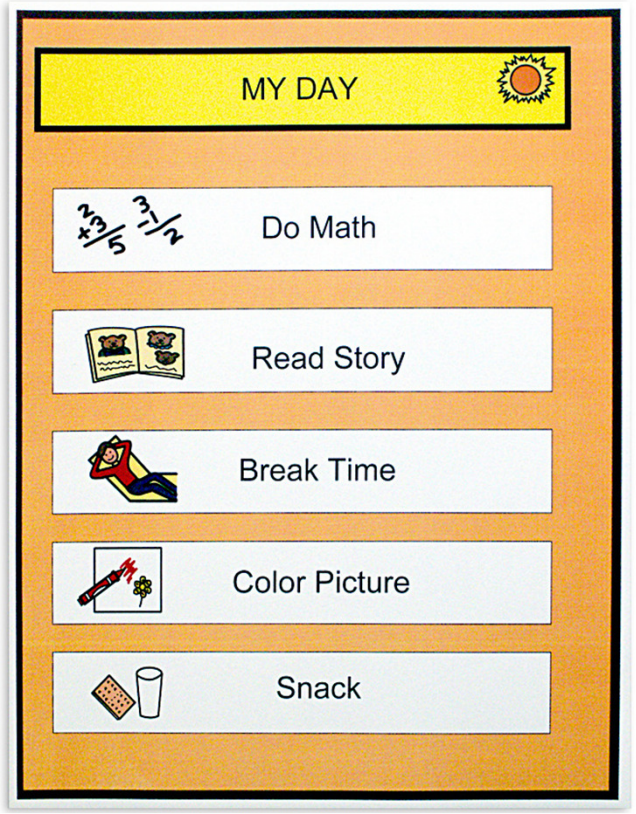
1. Pre-scene → 2. Visual Scene Display → 3. Transition (to Grid) → 4. Grid Display → 5. Transition (to Text) → 6. Text Display

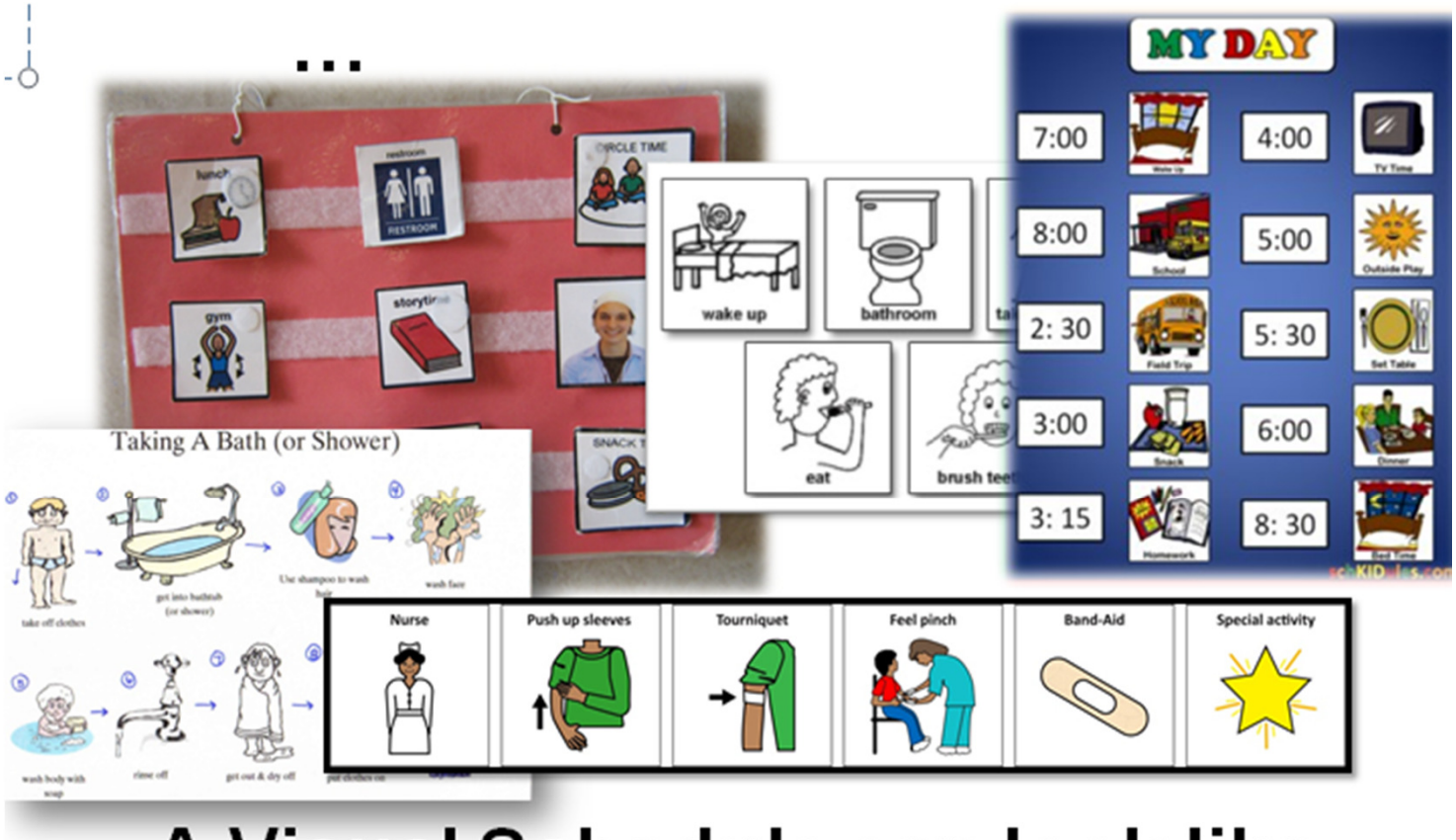
Foundational Tools	Emerging Familiarity	Emergent Understanding
• Real objects • Dynamic cues (i.e., videos)	• Photographs and symbols combined • Static cues	• Symbols

Visual Organizational Mode (VOM):

Visual cues used to represent the organization of an activity, routine, script, or schedule. These should not be thought of as a "crutch" from which they should be weaned.

Ex.: Schedule, timer, token board, first-then board, lists





A Visual Schedule can look like any of these!

It's time to work with Miss. Caitlin

First

Then

mark's work board

1	2			

So your student uses VOMs at school, how can you use them at home?

Executive Skills

Cognitive Process of generating goal directed behaviors.

Categories for Direct Instruction:

Initiation
Flexible Thinking
Sustaining Attention
Organization
Planning
Working Memory
Self-Awareness
Regulation Emotions

Tips and Strategies

Questions to ask before leaving the house:

- Is the child familiar with the outing location?
- Did I prepare the child for the transition?
- What is my expectation of the child during the outing?
- Do I have materials to support the child's success in the community (e.g. reinforcers, visuals, timers etc.) ?
- Is this activity meaningful to the child?

good morning

Garrett

Mom wakes me up with a hug and a kiss.

I get dressed.

I go to potty

I brush my teeth.

I eat breakfast.

Get your shoes on.

Say goodbye to Daddy.

Get in the car.

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What:

good morning

Who: ×

Garrett

Where:

Optional: drag a picture for a place

When:

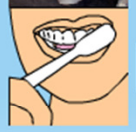
Optional:

Select When

Mom wakes me up with a hug and a kiss. 3:00 × ×

I get dressed. 6:00 × ×

I go to potty 2:00 × ×



I brush my teeth. 5:00 × ×

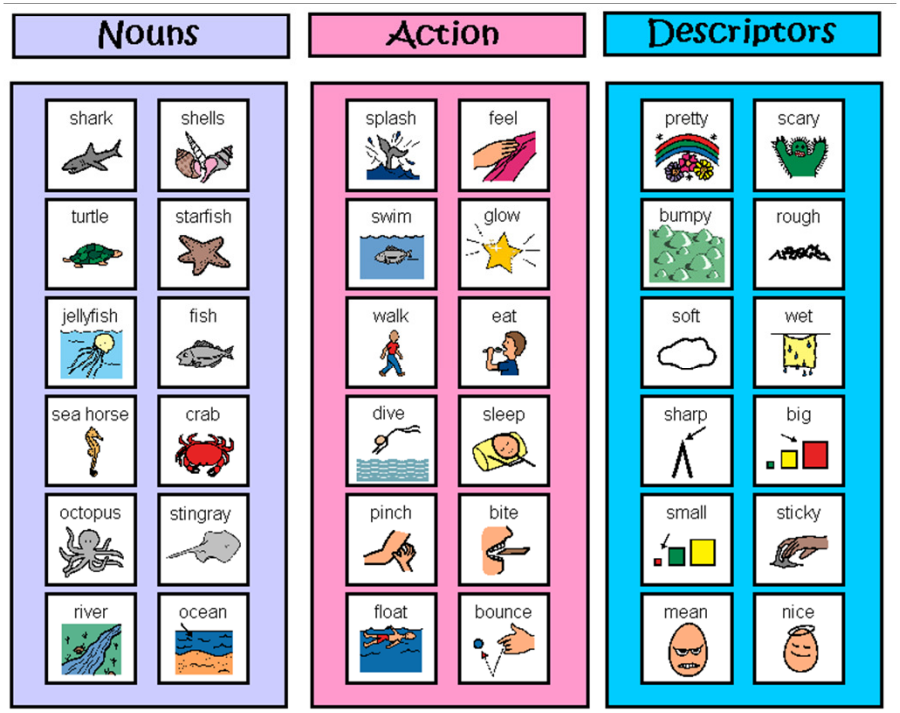
I eat breakfast. 10:00 × ×

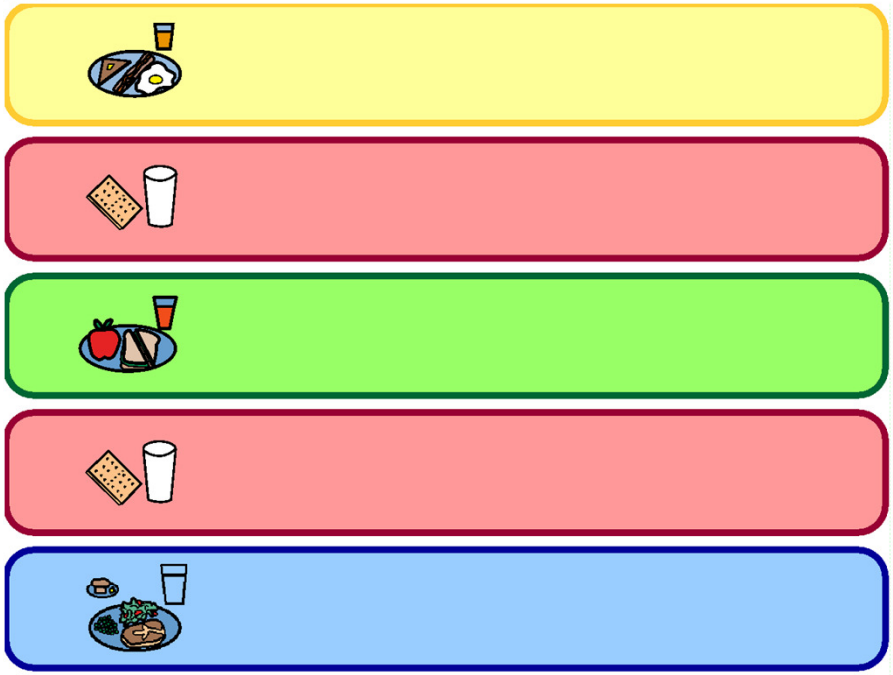
Get your shoes on. 2:00 × ×

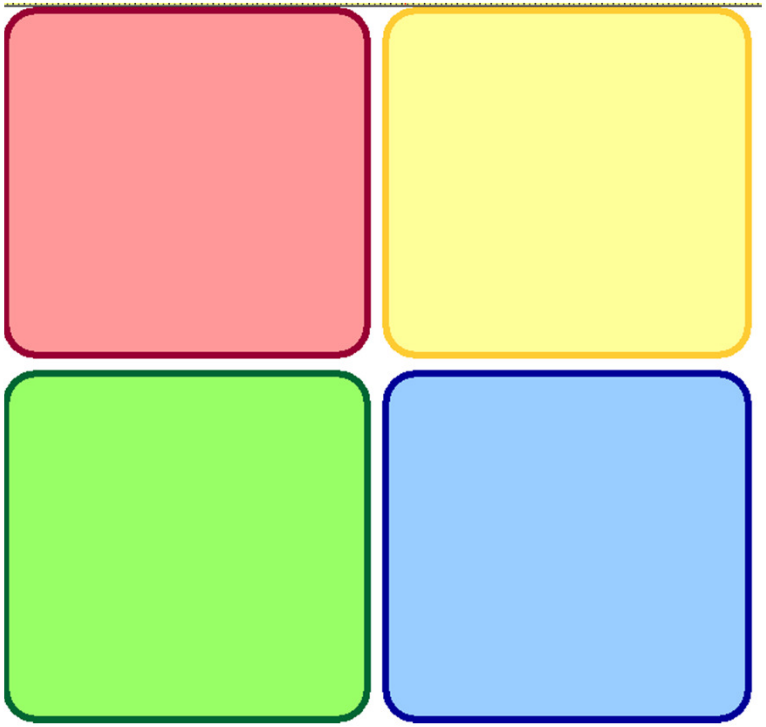
Say goodbye to Daddy. 2:00 × ×

Cleveland Aquarium Schedule

Ohio Lakes + Rivers	1	all done
Lakes + Rivers of the World	2	all done
Discovery Zone	3	all done
Indo-Pacific	4	all done
Coastal	5	all done
Tropical Reef	6	all done
Shark Sea Tube	7	all done
Exploration Station	8	all done
River Hut	9	all done







carrot
green beans
grapes
apple
banana

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First-Then – Low Tech - Expanded

- ***Built in multiple steps***

First → Next → Then

Math

10 Trials

Basketball

5 Baskets

Videos

15 minutes

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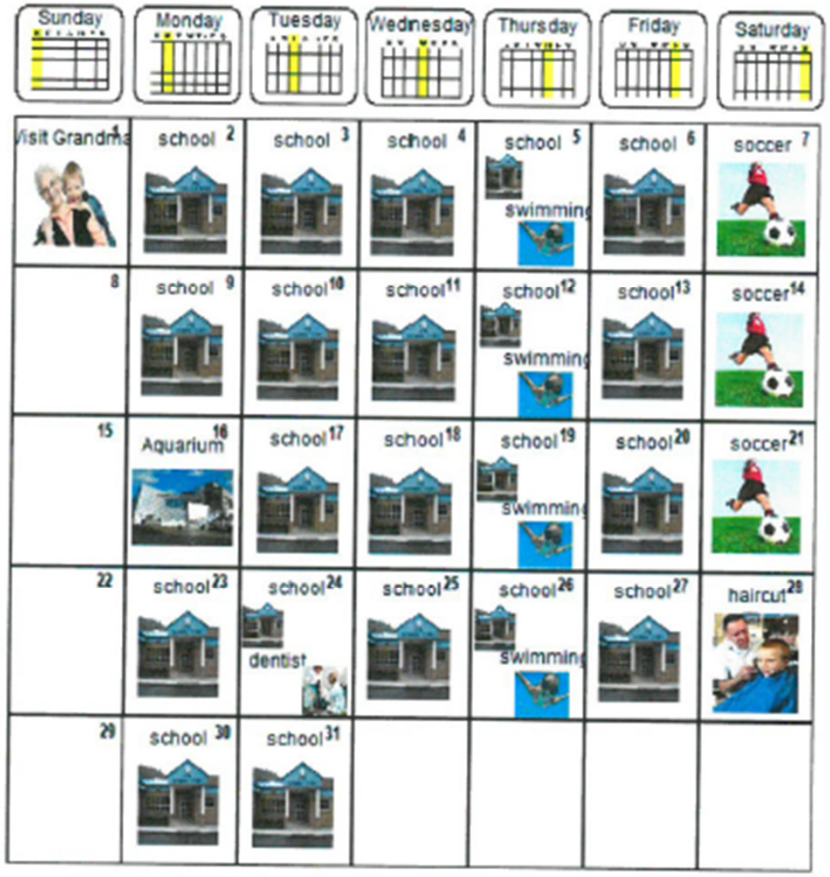
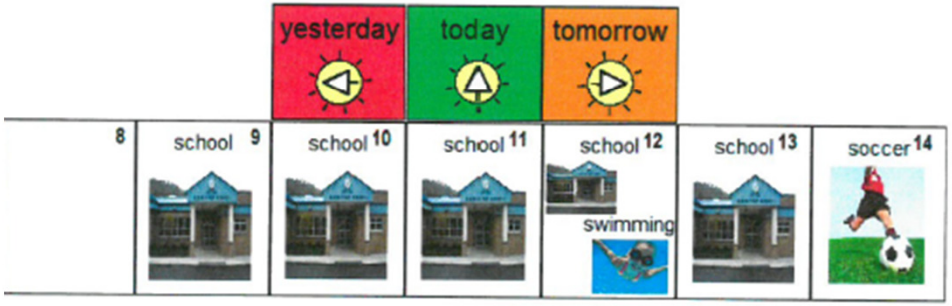
Organize a Month or Week





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Expanded visual schedule- Grocery store

Event	Where	Who	What	How long/ How many	Reward
Grocery Shopping	Giant Eagle	Me Mom Cashier	Eggs Milk Bread	1 hour and 30 minutes	Playing my keyboard

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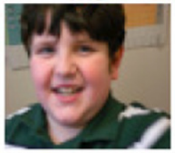
Expanded visual- Therapy Session

Event	Where	Who	What	How long/ How many	Reward
Visiting Meghan	Children's Hospital	Meghan Me  Mom Dad and Brynn	Drum Car Track Computer	1 hour and 30 minutes	Playing my keyboard

Expanded visual schedule-Doctor visit

Event	Where	Who	What	How long/ How many	Reward
Visit the Doctor	Doctor's Office	Me Mom Doctor	Scale Exam	1 hour and 30 minutes	Playing my keyboard

Time for an Outing

- Important to know students' level of understanding of sequential concepts
- How can you better prepare the child for success in the community?

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Timers and Schedules

First Then Visual Schedule HD 4+
First Then Visual Schedule HD
Good Karma Applications, Inc

#145 in Education
★★★☆☆ 6 Ratings
$14.99

iPrompts® PRO 4+
Handhold Adaptive, LLC

€109.99

Childrens Countdown Timer 4+
Fun visual countdown timer
Fehners Software LLP

★★★★½ 1.7K Ratings
Free • Offers In-App Purchases

PicList 4+
Chorus Games

Free

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First Then Visual Schedule

- Has different styles of visual schedules
- Easy to program

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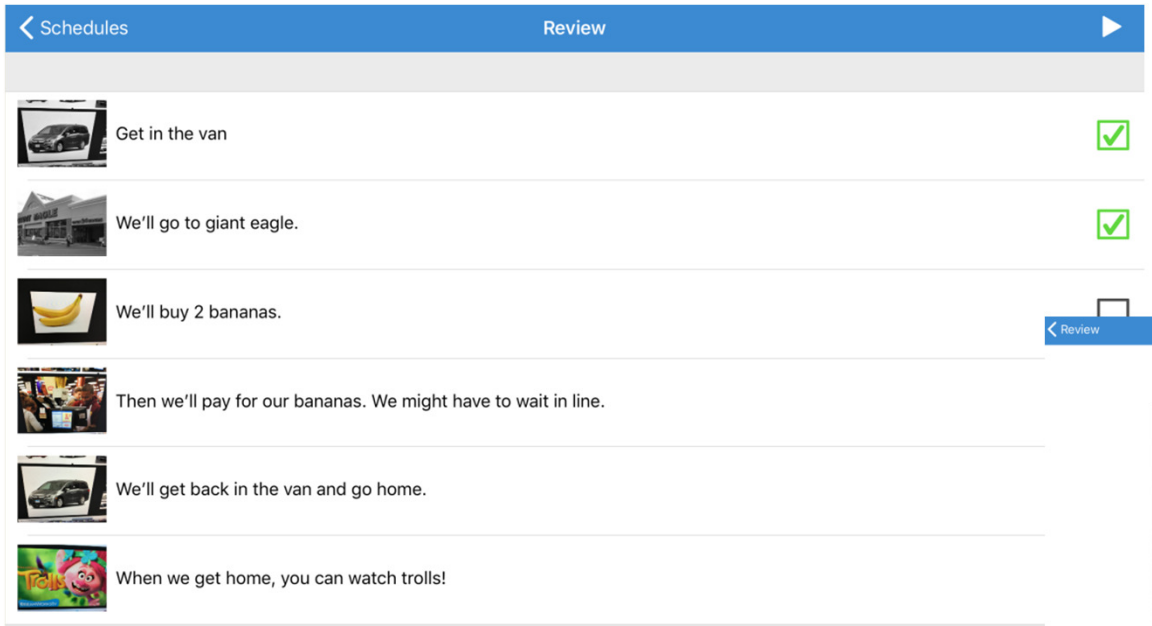
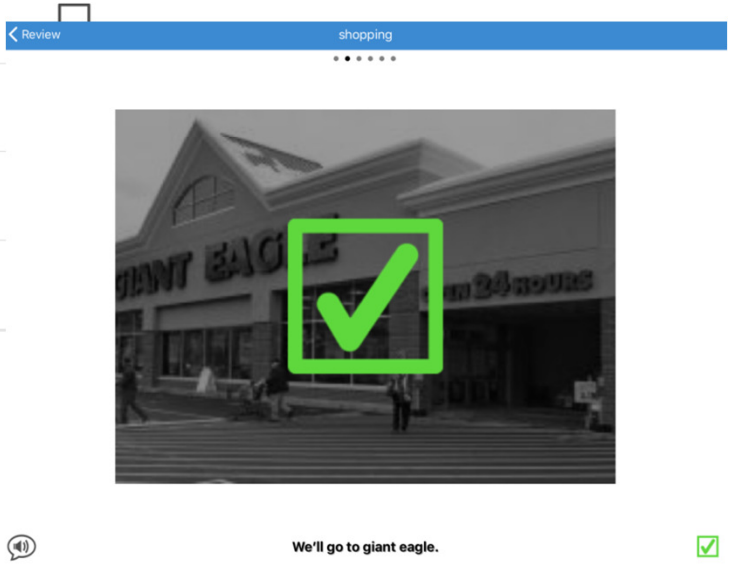
iPrompts Pro

- Schedules, Stories, Choices, Video Models
- Record your own voice





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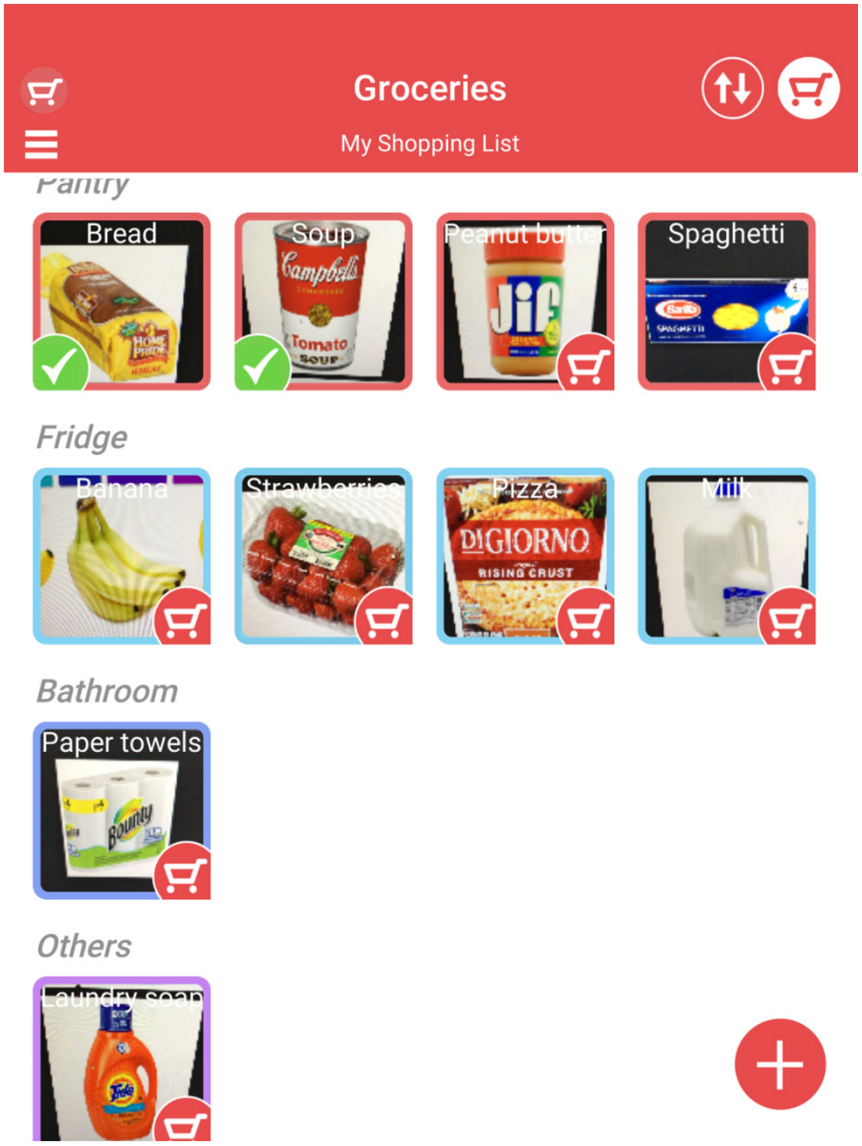
PicList



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Countdown Timer