

# Special Educational Needs

## – PECS & Managing Communication



Explore and understand effective communication within the Special Education Needs sector and the importance of using The Picture Exchange Communication System where required.

## Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)

### What is PECS?

The Picture Exchange Communication System, or PECS, allows people with little or no communication abilities to communicate using pictures. People using PECS are taught to approach another person and give them a picture of a desired item in exchange for the item. By doing so, the person is able to initiate communication. A child with autism can use PECS to communicate a request, a thought, or anything that can be reasonably be displayed or symbolised on a picture card.

### The six phases of the Picture Exchange System are:

#### PECS Phase 1. How to communicate

The child with autism learns to exchange single pictures for items or activities they really want.

#### PECS Phase 2. Distance and Persistence

Still using single pictures, the child with autism learn to generalise this new skill by using it in different places, with different people and across distances. They are also taught to be more persistent communicators.

#### PECS Phase 3. Picture Discrimination

The child with autism learns to select from two or more pictures to ask for their favourite things. These are placed in a communication book, a ring binder with Velcro strips where pictures are stored and easily removed for communication.

#### PECS Phase 4. Sentence Structure

The child with autism learns to construct simple sentences on a detachable sentence strip using an "I want" picture followed by a picture of the item being requested.

#### PECS Phase 5. Answering Questions

The child with autism learns to use PECS to answer the question, "What do you want?"

#### PECS Phase 6. Commenting

Now the child with autism is taught to comment in response to questions such as, 'What do you see?', 'What do you hear?' and 'What is it?'. They learn to make up sentences starting with I see, I hear, I feel, It is a, etc.

# Feelings & Emotions

## Advantages of picture communication

- The listener does not need special training because pictures are easy to understand and are often labelled.
- Simple matching makes initial communication easier.
- This is a research based intervention that is based on Skinner's analysis of verbal behaviour.
- Starting with PECS can help avoid creating a negative emotional history related to speech.
- Many individuals start with the ability to point to what they want so there is a high possibility for success.
- PECS is a fairly inexpensive, low tech language intervention.

**Nervous**



**Thirsty**



**Cold**



**Hot**



**Happy**



**Sick**



**Sad**



**Angry**



**Scared**



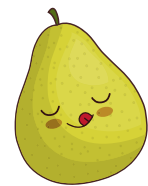
**Tired**



**Surprised**



**Hungry**



# Feelings & Emotions

How big is my emotion?

5	
4	
3	
2	
1	

Offer your printable PECS cards

Nervous  
Thirsty  
Cold  
Hot  
Happy  
Sick  
Sad  
Angry  
Scared  
Tired  
Surprised  
Hungry

# Wants & Needs

Communicating in an SEN environment can be challenging. The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) allows children that struggle with communication to speak using pictures and communication cards. A child can use these cards to indicate their basic needs and wants. This reduces the child's frustration and social isolation.

## I want...

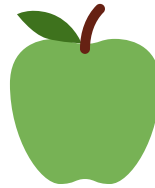
**Drink**



**Biscuit**



**Apple**



**Banana**



**Book**



**Sand**



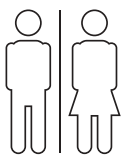
**Bricks**



**Puzzle**



**Bathroom**



**Quiet Time**



**Help**

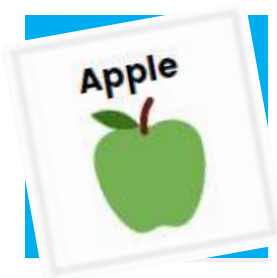


**You**



# Sentence building

I want the...  
before I have a



●

Having a structure for a child to build their own sentence through communication cards will boost confidence and independence. This is important for the child to build growth and be able to communicate their wants and needs effectively.

There are many sentences you can create on a Velcro board or day timeline such as the below:

- I want a \_\_\_\_\_ please.
- I want to play with the \_\_\_\_\_.
- I would like some \_\_\_\_\_ please.
- I would like you to \_\_\_\_\_ me.
- I would like a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ please.

# SEN Glossary

There are a number of acronyms that you need to be aware of within the SEN sector, it is impossible to remember them all! Use the glossary below as a point of reference for abbreviations you will most likely hear - but, there are many more...

You can explore these further on our website: [anzuk.education/uk](http://anzuk.education/uk)

<b>ADHD</b> Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	<b>ASD</b> Autistic Spectrum Disorder	<b>EHCP</b> Education Health Care Plan	<b>GLD</b> Global Learning Day
<b>HI</b> Hearing Impaired	<b>HLTA</b> Higher Level Teaching Assistant	<b>IEP</b> Individual Education Plan	<b>LLD</b> Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
<b>MLD</b> Moderate Learning Disability	<b>OT</b> Occupational Therapist	<b>PMLD</b> Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties	<b>SALT</b> Speech And Language Therapy
<b>SENCo</b> Special Education Needs Coordinator	<b>SLD</b> Severe Learning Disability	<b>TA</b> Teaching Assistant	<b>VI</b> Visually Impaired