

PLACEMATS: Talking & Eating!

Musselwhite & Wagner, 2006

Intro

Placemats are a great way to supplement device use with light-tech use of symbols (especially for messy times when we don't want dirty fingers smudging up the communication devices).



Who is This For?

This activity is for individuals who are able to point to symbols. You may use fewer symbols if necessary. However, remember that more symbols is GOOD, as it gives communication partners many opportunities for modeling communication!

How Do I Prepare These Displays??

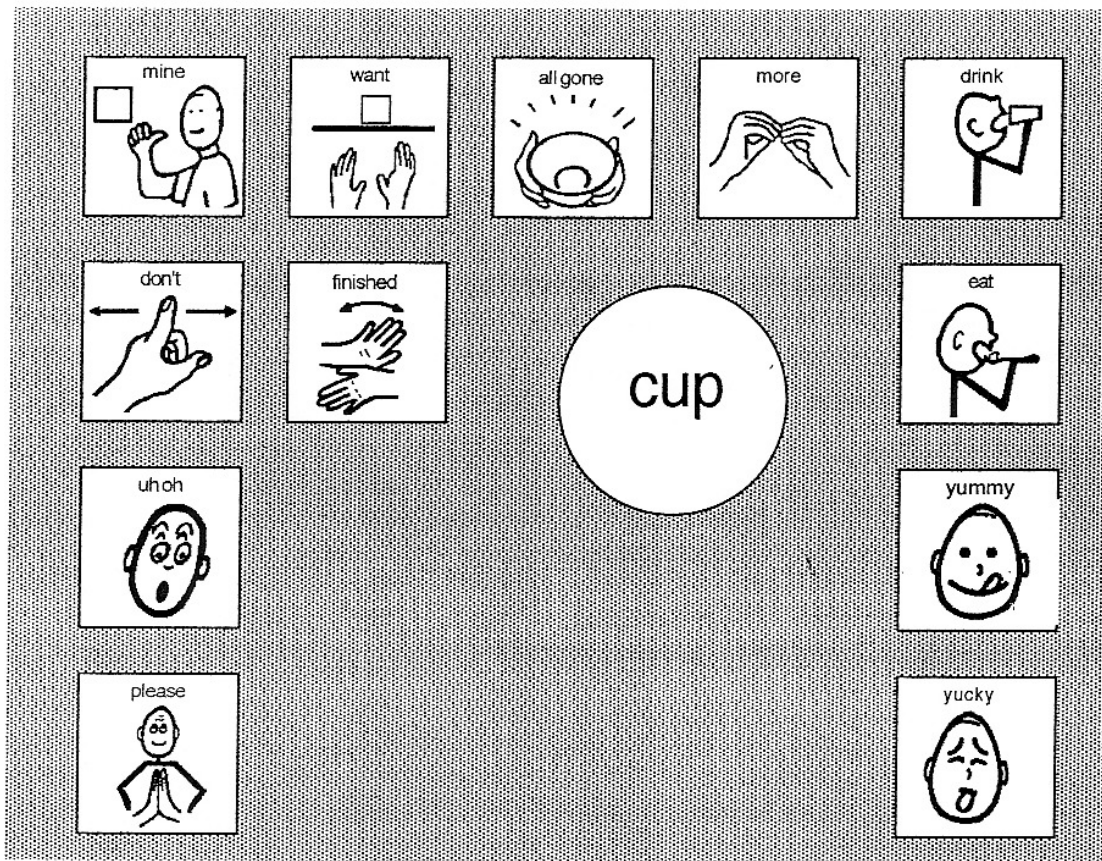
Directions:

- 1) Print the desired symbols in color. Note that this photo shows symbols with color-coded backgrounds (see Tip: Color Coding, Jan, 2005). This set is from Goossens', et al, Engineered Displays (36-location set).
- 2) If you don't have access to Boardmaker(www.mayerjohnson.com), use the attached set of symbols.
- 3) Cut apart symbols and mount them on black tagboard, leaving room for the plate in the center. Add your student's photo in the middle.
- 4) Add 2 rows of soft (loop) velcro. These will be used to add food items available for choosing and discussing at each meal, as shown.

Using Placemats

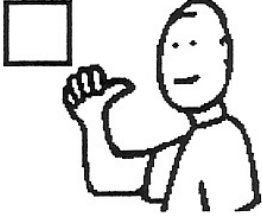
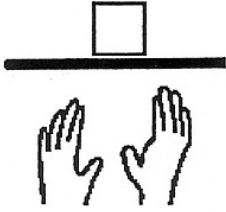


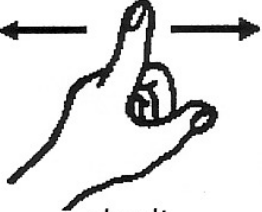







Placemats are not just for decoration!! Initially, they should be used for modeling communication. Please do NOT force students to point to symbols until they have had many opportunities to watch others use them interactively. Sample language:
UH-OH! RAISINS ALL GONE. . . MORE? WANT MORE RAISINS?
Okay! Miss Phelps!! Jason says <pointing> I WANT MORE RAISINS.
GOOD? RAISINS are GOOD? MMMMM! (etc. etc.)

Generic Preschool Symbol Placemat (Kempka, 1995)



Directions: Color the symbols on attached page according to color codes in the corner of each symbol. Cut a file folder or a piece of construction paper to size as needed. (File folders cut to 12 1/2" by 13" work well.) Cut out symbols and glue around the perimeter as shown above. Cut and glue on a small circle for cup and a larger circle for plate (optional). Laminate to protect.

Generic Placemat Symbols

<p>mine</p>  <p>o</p>	<p>want</p>  <p>p</p>	<p>all gone</p>  <p>b</p>	<p>drink</p>  <p>p</p>
<p>no</p>  <p>don't</p> <p>o</p>	<p>finished</p>  <p>b</p>	<p>more.</p>  <p>b</p>	<p>eat</p>  <p>p</p>
<p>uh oh</p>  <p>o</p>			<p>yummy</p>  <p>b</p>
<p>please</p>  <p>o</p>			<p>yucky</p>  <p>b</p>