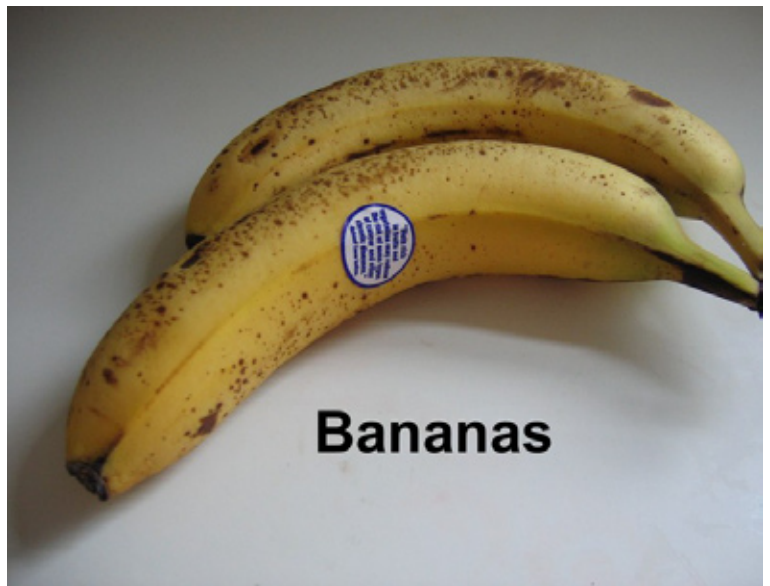


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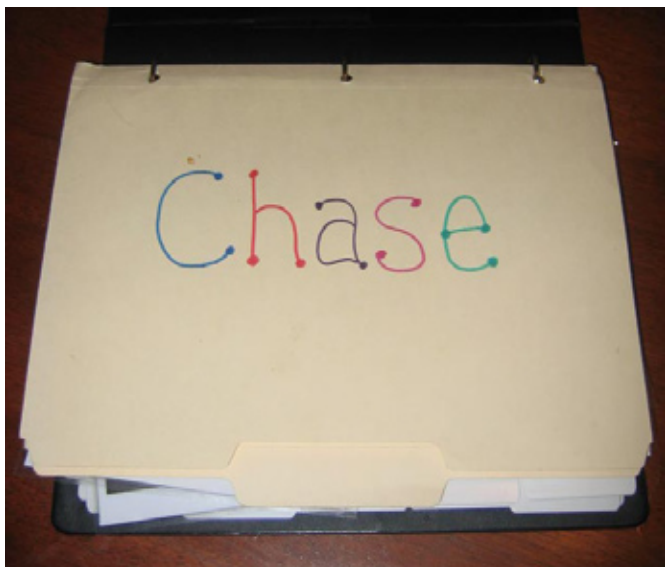
Homemade PEC System

A PECS, or Picture Exchange Communication System, is an augmentative communication system developed to help individuals quickly acquire a functional means of communication (Bondy and Frost, 1994). Some parents use a PECS to effectively enhance communication with a child that has delayed speech development, including but not limited to children with autism, like Staycie's son Chase.

Staycie is a Kideas visitor who has graciously shared these photos of her homemade PEC System with other parents whose children might benefit



Clear photos of everyday objects are simpler than words when communicating with a non-verbal child.



Keep your child's PEC System in a clearly labeled folder.

from its use. A professional PEC system can be purchased, but with the overwhelming costs of Chase's therapy in addition to usual household expenses, Staycie found a creative and economical solution by making her own PEC system using a few simple supplies.

As of this submission, Chase is nearly four years old, and in spite of his parents' ongoing struggle to get compensated by medical insurance, is responding well to therapy. The PEC System is just one of the tools Chase's parents are using to help him thrive.

More about creating your own PEC System on the next page.



Here we see the opening of a PEC System "sentence" linked on velcro. "Chase.. wants..."

Materials:

- file folders
- strips of velcro
- magazine clippings, photos, or any source for clear, crisp images of everyday objects.
- scissors
- glue
- pens
- computer for labeling images (optional)

Directions:

1. Glue a long velcro strip onto the inside of a file folder. This strip will be how the child creates "sentences".

2. Mount images on cardstock or cut file folders. Affix velcro pads to the back of each one, laminating the images first if possible.

3. Label your images with a permanent marker to assist other caregivers with consistent communication. (If possible, you can also scan in images and label them using a computer prior to lamination.)

4. Store your PEC System in a clearly marked folder.



Choose or shoot crisp, clear images of everyday objects. Start with items your child most often relates to, such as the child's favorite foods.

A special thanks to Staycie for sharing her hard work! And remember, for any speech delay, you should always consult your child's pediatrician.