

### SPECIAL EDUCATION, INCLUSION & EQUITY

#### SPEECH, LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board 20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558 Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

## What is Eye Gaze?

Looking at an object, pictures and symbols as a means of communication.

# What is an Eye Transfer Board (E-Tran)?

A clear frame that is used to introduce and use eye pointing as a means of choosing objects, pictures, and symbols (or letters, numbers, words) for communication.



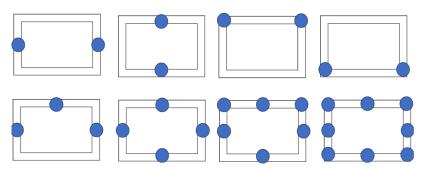




## How to get started

The student may not really understand about looking at objects or pictures as a means of communication - but looking at interesting things placed in front of them is a natural response.

- 1. Building cause and effect skills- When the student looks at something, he/she gets it as well as a social reward.
  - E.g. Presenting 2 toys (e.g. light up toy VS. music toy) for student to make a selection.
- 2. Start to pair real photos or symbols with the objects that you are presenting, so that the student can start to make an association between the two.
  - Building on these steps is essential to developing precursor skills for a more robust AAC system.
- 3. An E-Tran can be introduced to gradually offer more choices, or vocabulary.
  - Begin with 2 choices 1 if necessary, on each side of the board.
  - The frame is placed in front of the student, with meaningful or highly motivating pictures/objects stuck around its edges, facing the student.
  - Slowly and clearly label the each item on the board.
  - Watch to see where the student looks the longest and honour that as their choice.
  - Make sure to label the back of each visual, so you can see what the student is looking at.
  - Gradually increase the amount of visuals presented, and explore a variety of positions on the frame.



It may be necessary to monitor positions. Some students may have visual areas, which are difficult for them or some that are preferred.

