

A Holiday Calendar Resource

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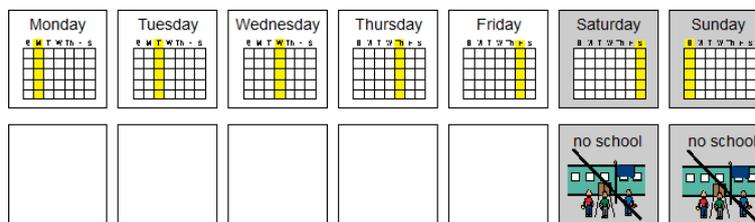
This resource is helpful for supporting an understanding of time and changes in routine for students with complex communication needs. Students who have difficulty communicating, may also have difficulty understanding what is happening outside of their regular daily routines. They may find it difficult to talk about things that have happened in the past, and things that are going to happen, but are aware of changes in routine and important people in their environments.

Challenge:

A lot of early communicators can be upset by changes in routine, what's happening now, next, when a favourite thing will happen, and when they will see a favourite or familiar person again. They likely cannot communicate effectively about these things and may use behaviour, such as appearing upset, to let people know "something's wrong".

Suggestion:

You can help an early communicator begin to understand what is happening and when by showing them through the use of visual supports, such as a visual calendar like the one pictured below:



This simple weekly calendar shows a student that there is no school on a weekend. The blank spaces under each day may be filled with activity visuals such as "school day" and special activities that may happen after school such as "swimming" or "Grandma's House".

Using Visual Calendars at home:

Visual calendars can be placed on the refrigerator, a bulletin board in a common area, or on a wall in a hallway, bedroom, or another space where it's able to be frequently viewed and referred to. They can be used during particularly tricky times like the school holidays, or when someone has gone away and will be returning at a later date.

Using a calendar for school holidays:

Some families refer to the calendar each day and tick off the day just before bed time or the following morning with the child, saying something like "yesterday was....." "today is....." "yesterday is finished", (tick it off with a pen together), "today is a school holiday" or "home day". Some people prefer to use a regular calendar and modify it to suit their child's needs. Others may want some extra visual supports such as colour coding, photos, symbols and a simple layout to help support their child's understanding.

Attached is a simple layout, one month per page calendar, with colour coding and symbol support that you might like to use to help your child better understand the school holiday period. There are spaces above some of the symbols for you to write/draw in anything special you may be doing together on those days. Some people like to mark the day they are on with a small post it flag along with marking off the days that have past.

Happy Holidays!

The Allenvale School Specialist Services Team

School Holidays

April-May 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
S M T W Th F S						

1 school 	2 school 	3 school 	4 school 	5	6	7
8 school 	9 school 	10 school 	11 school 	12 school 	13	14
15 no school 	16 no school 	17 no school 	18 no school 	19 Good Friday 	20	21 Easter Sunday
22 Easter Monday 	23 no school 	24 no school 	25 ANZAC Day 	26 no school 	27	28
29 school 	30 school 	1 school 	2 school 	3 school 	4	5