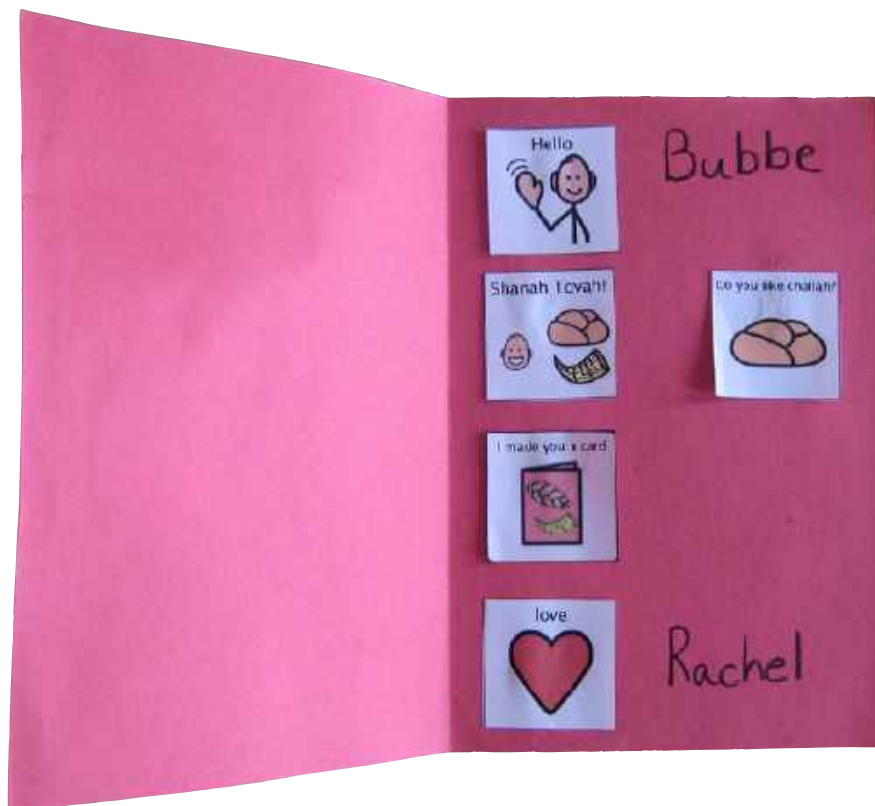


Writing a Rosh Hashanah Card

Many families send Rosh Hashanah cards to their friends and family to celebrate the new Jewish year. Writing a Rosh Hashanah message for friends and family can be an excellent opportunity for children with disabilities to practice communication skills and choice-making

This activity provides you with Tobii Dynavox Picture Communication Symbols® (previously known as Mayer-Johnson symbols) that children can use to compose a message, even if they are not yet able to read or write. The accompanying directions are written for an adult helper.



Materials:

1. Rosh Hashanah Cards



2. Glue Stick



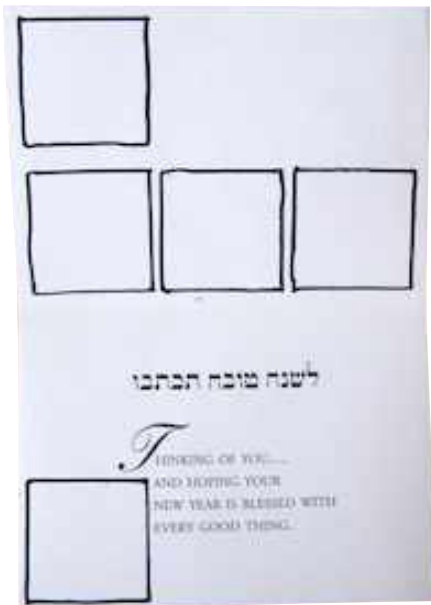
3. Picture Communication Symbols



(these can be found on pages 8 and 9)

Tips Before Starting:

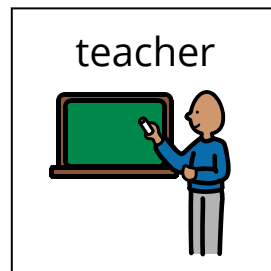
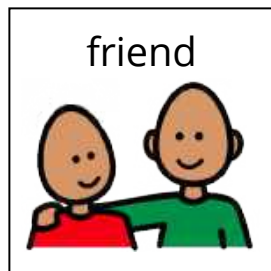
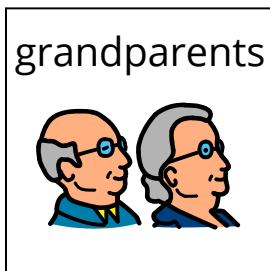
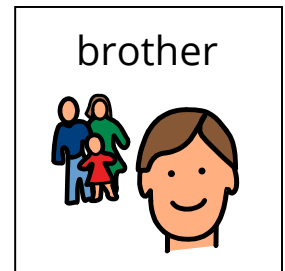
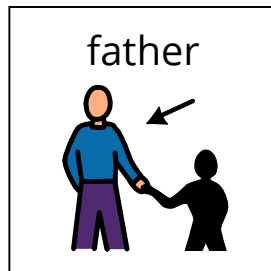
- You can make targets on the inside of the card so your child will know where to apply glue and place their symbols. These targets can be squares or dots that you draw on the inside of the card that show where the symbols should be placed, or even small stickers.



- Cut out all of the Mayer Johnson symbols before beginning the activity, or ask your child to cut them out. Be careful to keep the symbols organized!
- You can apply glue or loops of tape to the card before beginning the activity so children can quickly and easily stick the symbols they select to the card.

Instructions:

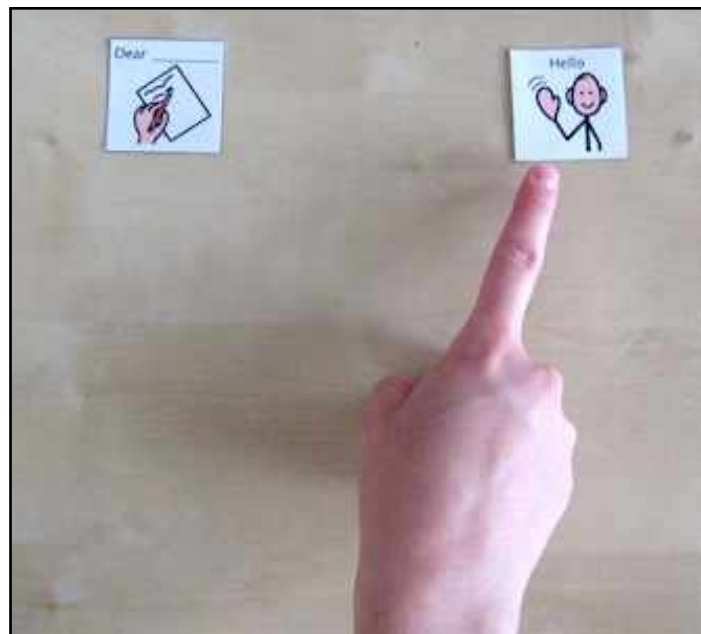
1. Before starting the activity, assemble all of the materials.
2. Show your child the Rosh Hashanah card and explain that you are going to send it to somebody special to wish them a good new year.
3. Ask your child who they would like to send a card to. You may use the symbols below to ask this question. You can also use your child's own communication system, or photographs of people you know.



4. Explain to your child that they are going to write a message inside of the card for this person to read.

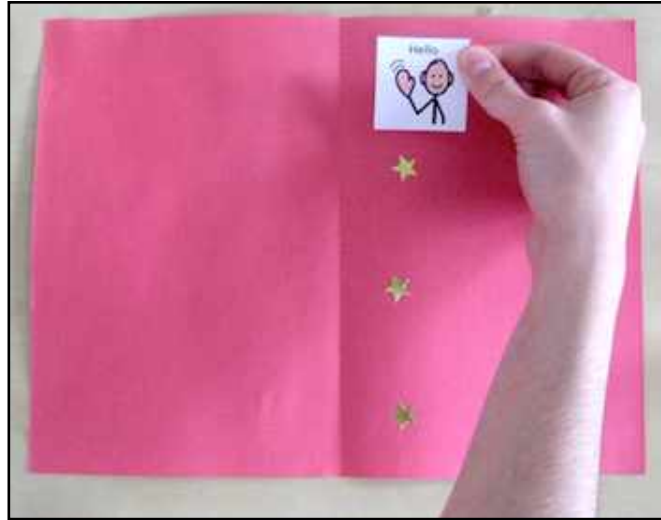
5. Place the first three symbols, the opening symbols, on the table in front of your child.
6. Point to each symbol and read the words above it so your child will know what each one says.
7. Ask your child: "Which one do you want to put in the card?"
8. Wait for the child to select their preferred symbol using they way they are most comfortable communicating. The child may point at the symbol, pick up the symbol, look at the symbol, or say the name of the symbol.

If they do not choose a symbol, review the symbols again. You may also try using a different prompt such as: "choose," or "point."



9. After your child chooses a symbol, praise them for making a choice. Then tell them "You want to say..." and repeat the phrase written on the symbol.

10. Help your child to apply glue to the card or to the back of the symbol and place the symbol onto the card.



11. Repeat steps 5-10 with the symbols for the different elements of the child's message: the Rosh Hashanah greeting, the comment about the holiday, the wish for the card's recipient, and the closing.

12. If your child is able to sign his or her name, tell them to sign the bottom of the card. For children who cannot yet sign their names, there are several creative options: help the child write his/her name using hand-over-hand assistance, write your child's name lightly in pencil and have your child trace over it, create stickers with the child's name on it that he/she can stick on the card, place the child's index finger in an ink pad and press a fingerprint onto the card.

13. When the card is finished, read the entire message as you point to each symbol.

14. Praise your child for their good work, and don't forget to give yourself a pat on the back as well! Try to be specific in your praise:

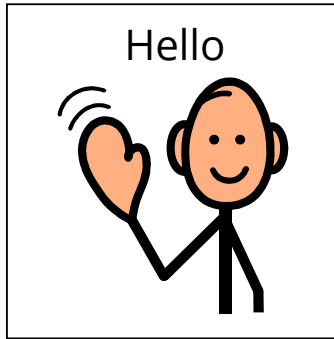
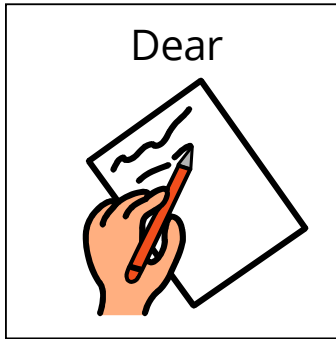
-“Nice pointing!”

-“I like how you used your eyes to let me know which symbol you wanted.”

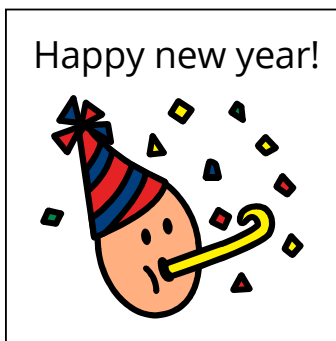
-“Good job sitting down for the whole activity!”

15. When the glue is dry, let your child to help you place the card in an envelope, put on a stamp, and put it in the mailbox.

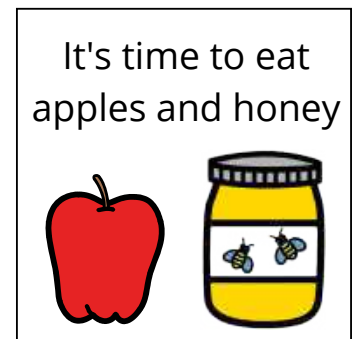
Opening:



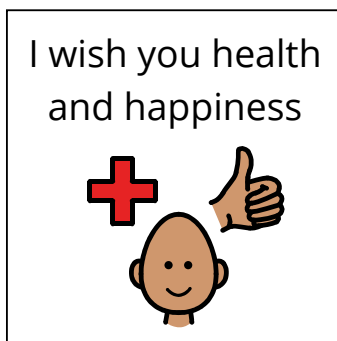
Rosh Hashanah greeting:



Comment about the holiday:



Wish for recipient:



Closing:

