

Low-Tech Devices You Can Make At Home

- **Page Fluffers:** If your child has trouble turning book pages, you may put small sticky furniture protectors or foam picture frame bumpers between each page. This separates each page and makes it easier for your child to turn pages independently.
- **Crayon Holders:** If your child has trouble grasping small crayons you can use an empty 35 mm film canister to make a crayon grip. Poke a small hole in the lid of the film canister, and push the crayon through. This gives your child a larger area to grasp when coloring with a crayon.
- **Talking Picture Frame:** Radio Shack and Walmart carry small square talking picture frames. You can use these to assist your child in asking for a drink, snack, book, etc. Modify the frame by placing a small furniture bumper on the "talk" button on the inside of the frame. This enables your child to push the closed frame and make it talk. Record messages such as "drink please", or "can you read a story to me?" on the frame and then place corresponding pictures of your child's favorite book or drink on the front of the frame. You may Velcro these frames to the refrigerator, a wall, or bookshelf, as appropriate.
- **Make bedtime or getting ready for school easier by making your child a picture schedule.** Take pictures of your child performing daily tasks such as brushing teeth, getting a bath, putting on pajamas, reading a bedtime story, and going to bed. Mount these pictures on heavy paper and cover them with clear contact paper. Put small squares of Velcro on the back of each picture, and mount them on a rectangle of indoor-outdoor carpet. As your child completes each task in the schedule have them place the picture in a small "finished" box (a small tissue box works well).
- **Communication Book or Ring:** Cut out magazine pictures or take photographs of your child's favorite objects, snacks, drinks, places, or people. Mount these pictures on heavy paper and cover them with clear contact paper. Place these pictures in a small photo album or on a binder ring and encourage your child to use these pictures to communicate his or her wants and needs. Reinforce verbal skills by repeating the name of the object on the card with your child. Start out with just a few pictures, and increase your child's picture library as he or she becomes more successful.