

PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System)

The Picture Exchange Communication System, or PECS, allows children who have little or no communication abilities, a means of communicating non-verbally. Children using PECS are taught to approach another person and give them a picture of a desired item in exchange for that item. By doing so, the child is able to initiate communication. The child can use PECS to communicate a request, a thought, or anything that can reasonably be displayed or symbolized on a picture card. PECS works well in the home or in the classroom.



The Six Phases of the Picture Exchange Communication System Are:

PECS PHASE I: How to Communicate

The child learns to exchange single pictures for items or activities they really want.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNbucDWEfpg>

PECS PHASE II: Distance and Persistence

Still using single pictures, the child will learn to generalize this new skill by using it in different places, with different people and across distances. They are also taught to be more persistent communicators.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXb15lawjTw>

PECS PHASE III: Picture Discrimination

The child learns to select from two or more pictures to ask for their favourite things. These are placed in a communication book, a ring binder with Velcro strips where pictures are stored and easily removed for communication.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_rZtspNk4

PECS PHASE IV: Sentence Structure

The child learns to construct simple sentences on a detachable sentence strip using an "I want" picture followed by a picture of the item being requested.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QUanDJTqok>

PECS PHASE V: Answering Questions

The child learns to use PECS to answer the question, "What do you want?"

PECS PHASE VI: Commenting

Now the child is taught to comment in response to questions such as, What do you see?, What do you hear? and What is it? They learn to make up sentences starting with I see, I hear, I feel, It is a, etc.