

RESOURCE



SELECTIVE MUTISM: USING PROPS



USING PROPS

When working with students with selective mutism, it is important to develop their feelings of comfort and confidence around communication. It can be helpful to introduce props to aid communication in the classroom, supporting the individuals' progression into speech.

The aim of using a prop is to take the focus away from the child and place it on the object, to reduce the child's anxiety. The prop can be used as a conversation starter or stimulus and can change depending on the situation.

WHAT PROPS CAN I USE?



IDEAS

Board games
Nature
Art activities
Puppets

Hobbies
Interests
Cooking
Books

HOW DO I USE THE PROPS?

1. Initially talk to other children within the classroom
2. Focus your discussion on the prop and ensure the prop is the centre of conversation
3. Get down to the student's level
4. Be a broadcaster, for example 'I can see you're mixing the bowl'
5. Ask open-ended questions to the student with focus on the prop
6. Be patient, allow for hesitation