

SNACK TALK TIP SHEET

WHAT IS SNACK TALK?

Snack Talk is a visual conversational support that can be used to promote interactions between learners during mealtimes. Snack Talks, or Snack Talk cards, center on a specific topic, such as activities, toys, aspects of the class curriculum, or other age appropriate activities. In a preschool classroom, a Snack Talk card might support a conversation around favorite songs or books, while an elementary or secondary Snack Talk card might relate to sports teams or travel.

HOW DOES SNACK TALK PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE CLASSROOMS?

The goal of any Snack Talk is to support a conversation between all learners and provide a way for all members of a community to interact with one another verbally and non-verbally. Our research shows that Snack Talk lead to more child-to-child interactions, decreases in challenging behavior, and higher rates of teacher and child engagement (Bateman & Wilson, 2020; Gauvreau, 2017)

HOW CAN I USE SNACK TALK IN MY PROGRAM?

1. Determine learners' Interests
2. Collect images related to those interests. We suggest 9-12 images per Snack Talk card.
3. Arrange the images on a piece of paper, including a heading with the question at the top.
4. Consider laminating for durability, if possible.
5. Teach learners how to use Snack Talks by modeling conversational skills, encouraging children to ask and answer questions, and make comments.
6. Fade back teacher support to provide more opportunities for learners to interact with adult prompting.

References

Bateman K.J, Wilson S.E. (2020) Supporting Diverse Learners with Autism through a Culturally Responsive Visual Communication Intervention. *Intervention in School and Clinic*. doi:10.1177/1053451220963090
Gauvreau, A.N. (2017). Using "Snack Talk" to support social communication in inclusive preschool classrooms. *Young Exceptional Children*, 22(4), 187-197.



What do you like to do outside?

