

RESOURCE GUIDE:

Using a Choice Board at Night to Shine

What is a Choice Board?

A choice board is a visual tool that uses pictures, symbols, or words to present options for activities or tasks. It allows individuals to make choices by pointing to their preferences. Choice boards can be especially helpful for individuals who are non-speaking, minimally verbal, or who benefit from visual supports.

How Can a Choice Board Support Participants?

- **Encourages Independence:** A choice board empowers participants to communicate their preferences independently, fostering a sense of control over their evening.
- **Supports Communication:** Participants who are non-speaking or minimally verbal can use the choice board to express their desires without relying solely on verbal communication.
- **Reduces Overwhelm:** Visual supports can help individuals process their options more easily, reducing anxiety or overwhelm that might come from verbal instructions alone.
- **Facilitates Decision-Making:** For participants who need extra time to process information, a choice board provides a clear and accessible way to consider their options at their own pace.

Using the Choice Board at Night to Shine

The Night to Shine choice board includes symbols representing key activities throughout the event. Here are some tips for utilizing the choice board at Night to Shine:

1. Introduce the Choice Board:

- Show the participant the choice board early in the event.
- Explain that it can help them decide what they want to do during the evening.

2. Present Options Visually:

- Point to the pictures or symbols as you name each activity (e.g., “Would you like to go to the Red Carpet, do Karaoke, or have Dinner?”).
- Allow the participant to indicate their choice by pointing, touching, or using another method they prefer.

3. Offer Time to Decide:

- Give participants extra time to process and make their decision. Avoid rushing them.

4. Use Throughout the Evening:

- Regularly check in with participants to see if they want to choose their next activity.

Tips for Success

- **Adapt as Needed:** If a participant prefers a different method of communication, adapt to meet their needs.
- **Use Encouragement:** Positively reinforce the use of the choice board by acknowledging and honoring their selection (e.g., “Great choice! Let’s head to Karaoke.”).
- **Make Readily Available:** Ensure choice boards are easily accessible throughout the event. Buddies can carry a physical copy of the choice board or have a digital copy on their phone to use with participants, or choice boards can be strategically placed around the event space for convenience.

A choice board is a simple but powerful tool to ensure every participant at Night to Shine has a positive and fun experience!

ASSEMBLY

1. Print

Print the choice boards.

2. Cut

Cut out the choice boards.

3. Laminate for Durability

If desired, laminate the choice boards for durability.



Recommended Tools for Assembly:



Interested in additional visual supports to utilize at church services or special events?

Check out Awe & Wonder's resources at: www.specialneedsministryresources.com

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