

Visual Schedules and Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)- they are not the same and are important for different reasons.

Visual Schedules (Key Points)

- *Used by the **student** throughout the school day
- *Come in a variety of formats
- *Tells the student what is going to happen during the day and in what order
- *Helps to develop a routine
- *Helps a student to adapt to changes in the routine

Picture Exchange Communication System -PECS (Key Points)

- *Research and data-based system
- *Relies on clearly defined phases (steps)
- *Allows nonverbal students a way to communicate
- *Allows verbal students visual support to help increase communication
- *No prerequisite skills are needed to begin using PECS
- *Teaches a child to initiate communication, not simply respond to it

Similarities

- *Utilize visuals
- *Used by the student, not the staff
- *Can help to reduce frustration, anxiety, and behaviors

Important Differences

- *PECS is used for communication; a schedule is used as a guide for the day/activity
- *PECS follows a specific order and is taught using specific steps
- *Visual schedules are context dependent