



Give Them the Words

Six visual supports for common preschool conflicts

**Do not ask children to use a skill they do not yet have.
Teach the missing words, model them, and help children
practice.**

A free classroom sample from the Elev8 preschool toolkit series

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How to Use These Visuals

Young children are often told to “use your words” during a conflict. That direction only helps when the child already knows which words to use and can access them in the moment. These visuals give teachers concrete language to model during play, waiting, and peer conflict.

Prompt Model Practice

- 1 Prompt the purpose.** Move close and ask what the child may be trying to communicate: “Do you want to play?” or “Are you still using it?”
- 2 Model the words.** Point to the matching visual and say the short phrase: “Can I play?” “My turn.” “I’m not done.”
- 3 Help the child practice.** Invite the child to say the phrase, sign it, point to the card, or communicate it using the child’s established system.
- 4 Support the response.** Teach the other child what to do next. A peer can answer, offer a turn later, choose to play together, or help set a timer.

Useful Teacher Language

When you notice	Try saying
A child hovering near play	“Do you want to play?” Point to CAN I PLAY and model the phrase near the other children.
Two children want the same toy	Help one child say I’M NOT DONE and the other ask for MY TURN. Use WAIT and a timer when helpful. Model YOUR TURN or suggest playing together.
A child is overwhelmed	Offer HELP and model how to request adult support before the conflict grows.

Communication note These classroom visuals are supplemental supports. If a child uses an AAC device or another established communication system, continue using and honoring that system and its vocabulary.



Printable Communication Cards

Print on sturdy paper, laminate if desired, and cut around each card. Introduce the cards during calm moments before expecting children to use them during a conflict.



Free sample for one classroom • Please share the Elev8 download page rather than redistributing the digital file



Continue Looking Before You Label

These six cards are a small sample of the practical supports being developed for the first Elev8 preschool toolkit. The complete bundle is designed to help busy teachers pause, observe what may be happening, and choose a respectful next step.

The Complete Toolkit Will Include

- The full communication visual collection and teacher lanyard cards
- Observation and decision-making tools for understanding behavior
- First Then resources and transition supports
- Circle time supports and meaningful participation alternatives
- Practical teacher guidance and recorded training

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