

Case Study



TTS Recordable Wall Chart IT10003

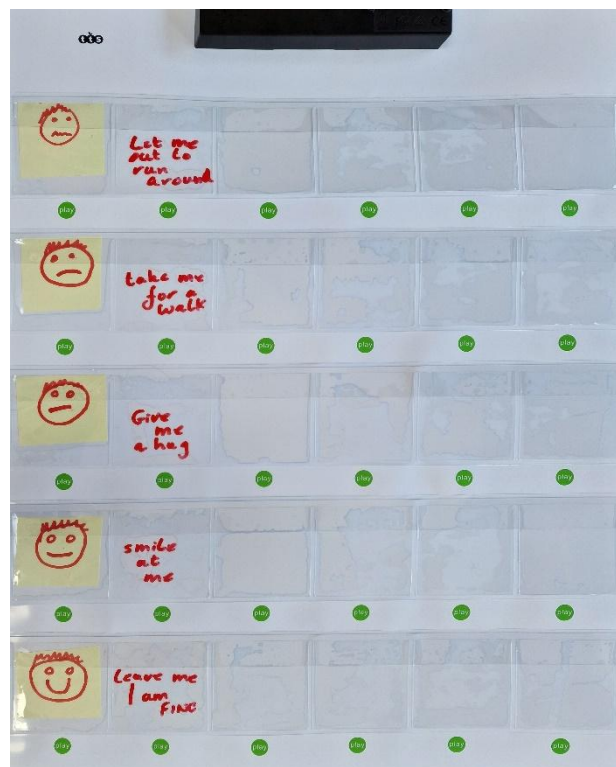
Andrew Whitehouse, MSpEd CPSE (PGCert), BA Hons QTS, SEND Consultant, and TEDx Speaker, explores the resource and shares with us his ideas and thoughts.



Background Information (Intent)

As a specialist in neurological disorders, I am always looking for multi modal resources (those that activate a range of learning styles), and in particular visual resources which are so useful for ADHD Autism and Dyslexia.

My first thoughts when I received this resource, was how it could be used to express emotions. I've always been a fan of The Incredible Five Point Scale by Kari Dunn Buron and Mitzi Curtis. The Incredible Five Point Scale works on the premise that emotions and feelings go much deeper than happy/sad, and that there are many more feelings in between. As a result, Dunn Buron and Curtis, have developed a scale of five grades of emotions to help children to communicate their feelings and needs. So, I have used the outdoor interactive wall to replicate this system.



How was the resource used? (Implementation)

The Outdoor Interactive wall has five rows and six columns containing thirty see through envelopes in which you can slip in images, or, as I discovered, you can even write on (and more importantly wipe off) with a drywipe pen! In addition to this, each envelope has the facility to record and play back an audio message. In my example, I have combined images, recordings, and written text.

As you can see, in the first column, I have added five images which I have drawn, which express how different feelings can present, and how they can escalate. Although I like to draw my own images, you could of course use Widget, Writing with Symbols, PECs, or even, if you think that they can manage it, get the children to draw their own images. Once these images are in place, I have added a voice recording to each image ascending from bottom to top:

- Happy
- Ok
- Sad
- Grumpy
- Angry

This then gives the child the opportunity to interact with their feelings in a multi modal manner, i.e.

- Visual
- Kinaesthetic
- Auditory

In the second column, I have written in dry wipe, again ascending from bottom to top, some desired responses to those visual representations of feelings. In this case:

- Leave me, I am fine.
- Smile at me
- Give me a hug.
- Take me for a walk.
- Let me out to run around.

Again, these could alternatively be used with a variety of different images, including those sourced online, and ultimately there is option to choose the child's preferred mode of communication. The fact that there are six columns allows the opportunity for the child to gain support in another two or three areas of difficulty such as, for example, noise, smells, anxiety, or any area that child may need help with.

Other Activity Ideas

Because of the multi-modal nature of the resource, there are of course a wide range of other uses which it can lend itself to, for example:

Phonics: Press for sounds, and have the child repeat the sound and write it in the appropriate box. Conversely, get the child to write the sound first and press the button to hear what it sounds like. Have a range of up to 30 pre-recorded words in the memory of the wall. Child presses the play button and writes in the word, in the appropriate box.

Whole class visual and talking timetable for a range of groups: Divide the class up into its differentiated groups (up to six) and assign each group a colour, say red, green, yellow, blue, orange, purple. Get the wall and divide it up into columns of the same colours. Have the appropriate symbols for each element of the daily timetable. Those children that like to use visuals can, whilst those who prefer to hear instructions and process the information auditory can also benefit.

And how about geography and coordinates... the way the wall is created is that although each envelope is separate, they are all part of the same sheet, so you can in fact use the whole wall as one item, for example a treasure map! Simply draw your map over the full area of the wall, add a few items of interest such as dead man's creek, pirate mountain, and of course the treasure itself. Record your coordinates and grid references into each envelope and there you have an interactive treasure map!

“This truly is a fabulous versatile resource. I shall definitely be finding lots more uses for it!” Andrew Whitehouse.

With thanks to Andrew Whitehouse for sharing his thoughts and ideas on the Recordable Wall Chart.