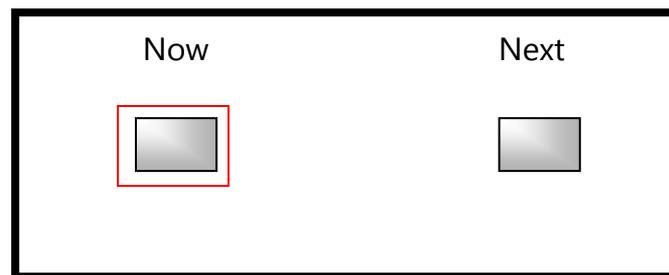


## Now - next board

### What is a 'Now - Next' board?

A laminated piece of card or paper with space for 2 picture symbols to be attached with Velcro. The 'now' space needs to have a red border:



### Why do we use 'Now- next' boards?

- To help a child understand what you are expecting them to do by showing them in a visual way
- To encourage a child to engage in an adult chosen activity by showing them what you are expecting them to do and that they will be rewarded with their chosen activity
- To help a child to structure their free play time

### How do I use a 'Now - Next' board?

- A 'Now - Next' board is useful at times of transition in the routine. For example if you know a child finds it difficult moving from free play to group time, use the 'Now - Next' board to show them that you will be expecting them to stop free play and come to group time. Use simple language "now free play, next group time" while you point to the symbols. When free play is finished show the child by taking the 'free play' symbol off the board and say "Free play finished", and show them what is next, "now group time".
- This can also be used at home if a child is finding it difficult to move on from a favourite activity e.g. "now TV, next lunch"
- A 'Now - Next' board is useful when you want a child to complete your choice of activity before they move on to their own choice. For example "now puzzle, next bubbles". Again when the puzzle is finished take the symbol off the board, show the child the bubbles symbol and say "puzzle finished, now bubbles"



## What if my child is not ready to understand pictures?

Objects can be used in a similar way to help a child understand what you are expecting them to do. Instead of the symbols and 'Now – Next' board, use two objects to show your child e.g. show puzzle and bubbles next to each other and say "now puzzle, next bubbles".