

Why use an ETran Frame?

Some students may find it difficult to physically hold, reach for, point to or exchange an object, photograph or symbol. An ETran Frame can provide a student a method of making a choice or request by eye pointing at a desired item.

Some students may not have yet really understood about indicating objects or pictures as a means of communication – but look at interesting things placed in front of them is a natural response. Gradually, through the use of an ETran Frame, the association between what they look at and getting it can be developed.

When can an ETran Frame be used?

General Choices

- Snack
- What activity they want to carry out
- Choice of TV programme (e.g. DVD cases / photograph of main character)
- Choice of music (e.g. CD cases / photograph of artist)

Curriculum Choices

- Musical instrument during music lesson (objects placed / photographs stuck on / symbols stuck on)
- Colour of paint during art lesson
- 'Yes' / 'No' response (need to have a good level of understanding) – yes and no symbols stuck to each corner of frame
- Who they want to go next (photographs of peers stuck around frame)

What is an ETran Frame?

An ETran Frame is a clear Perspex frame, that can be placed in front of a student, with meaningful objects / photos / symbols stuck around its edges, facing the student. There is a hole in the middle of the frame so that the adult sitting opposite can see where his/her eyes are going and so you know which item they are indicating.

ETran Frame



What else needs to be taken into consideration when using an ETran Frame?

- A student's eye sight!
- Distractions around the student – are they looking past the ETran Frame?
- What level does the student understand? Are they using objects, photographs or symbols?

Using an ETran Frame

- Positioning: The frame should be directly in front of the student, with an adult opposite to observe responses.
- Motivating: Make the activities fun to encourage eye pointing e.g. use motivating toys, foods (anything that the student might recognise and be motivated by).
- Attaching items: The easiest way to attach items is using Bluetack.
- Number of items: Initially start with two items on the top two corners of the frame. As the student's responses become more consistent this can be increased to more.

Step-by-step Guide

1. Allow the student to see that you are sticking items onto the frame.
2. Turn the frame to face the student. When they look at an item, immediately comment, naming the item and giving it to them.
3. Repeat. If the student keeps looking at the same corner, switch items to see if they are looking for the object or just looking in that direction.
4. As the student becomes more consistent, increase the number of items. Use motivating and non-motivating items to see if they can discriminate