



## Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) ---Parent's Guide---

This introduction provides basic information about picture exchange communication system.

### What is PECS?

- PECS is an evidence-based practice for preschool to middle school aged (3-14 years) children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) from 3 to 14 years old.
- PECS helps learners with ASD develop a system of communication and promotes speech development and production.

### Why use PECS with my child?

- Many learners with ASD struggle with communication. PECS can be used to teach children how to initiate communicative exchanges and interactions.
- PECS teaches learners to use symbols or pictures to communicate with others.
- Research studies have shown that PECS has been used effectively with learners in preschool, elementary school, and middle school to address social, communication, and joint attention outcomes.

### What activities can I do at home?

- Create a list of your child's favorite toys and activities. Share this list with your child's IEP team.
- Ask your child's team for a communication book to use at home with appropriate symbols/pictures to use at home.
- Work with your child's team to use PECS at home or in the community. By encouraging use at home, your child will be more likely to generalize use of PECS across both the home and school setting.

This parent introduction to PECS was designed as a supplemental resource to help answer basic questions about this practice.

To find out more about how PECS is used with your child, speak with:

---

**For more information visit:**  
[www.afirm.fpg.unc.edu](http://www.afirm.fpg.unc.edu)