

Non-Verbal Communication Cards

For Parents, Caregivers & Educators



Non-Verbal Communication Cards Blanks

- ✓ Flexible across settings and routines
- ✓ Designed to build confident, supported communicators
- ✓ Seamlessly used in daily life
- ✓ Low prep - print, laminate, ring, and go
- ✓ Customisable so you can personalise.

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Last updated: May 2025

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Non-Verbal Communication Cards

Quick Setup Guide for Parents, Caregivers & Educators

These blank cards give a child a voice when speaking is difficult. By adding familiar images or personal photographs, you create a deeply personal communication tool that reflects your child's unique world.

1. **Personalise Your Cards** Before laminating, glue a clear photograph or a simple drawing into the blank frame. Using a real photo of your child's own water bottle for "Thirsty" or their specific bed for "Tired" can help them connect with the resource much faster.
2. **Set Up the Cards** Print, add your images, and laminate. Punch a hole through the top circles and thread them onto a keyring. Keep the ring where the child can always reach it - on their desk, school bag, bedside table, or kitchen bench.
3. **Show the Child Model** first. Pick up a card, say the words out loud, and act on them. For example: hold up your custom "Thirsty" card with the photo of their bottle, say it aloud, and pour a glass of water. Repeat daily until the child reaches for the card independently.
4. **Respond Right Away** The moment a child uses a card, respond immediately. Quick responses teach the child that using the card works. Smile, say the phrase back to them, and follow through.
5. **Use Them All Day** Weave the cards into everyday routines - meals, getting dressed, school tasks, bedtime. Consistency between home and school is key to building confidence.
6. **Keep It Positive** Celebrate every use with simple praise: "Good for telling me" or "Thank you for showing me." Never correct or ignore a card point - always acknowledge it.

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- **No Modifications:** While you are encouraged to add your own photos to the blank frames, the core layout and branding may not be rebranded or sold.
- **Tip for Schools:** Send a spare set home so the same custom photos are used in both environments.

POPIA Compliance: Please ensure you have obtained explicit consent from any individual (or their legal guardian) before using their photograph on these cards, especially if they are shared within a school setting.

Custom Commissions: If you would like a professional, personalised set featuring a cartoon version of your child or specific staff members, check availability at: dmhedu.co.za/custom-cards

Personalising Your Blank Cards

A guide for teachers, parents, and caregivers

For an even deeper connection, personalise your blank cards using real photos of your child, their favourite people, places, and things. The more familiar the images, the faster the child will respond.

Add an Image

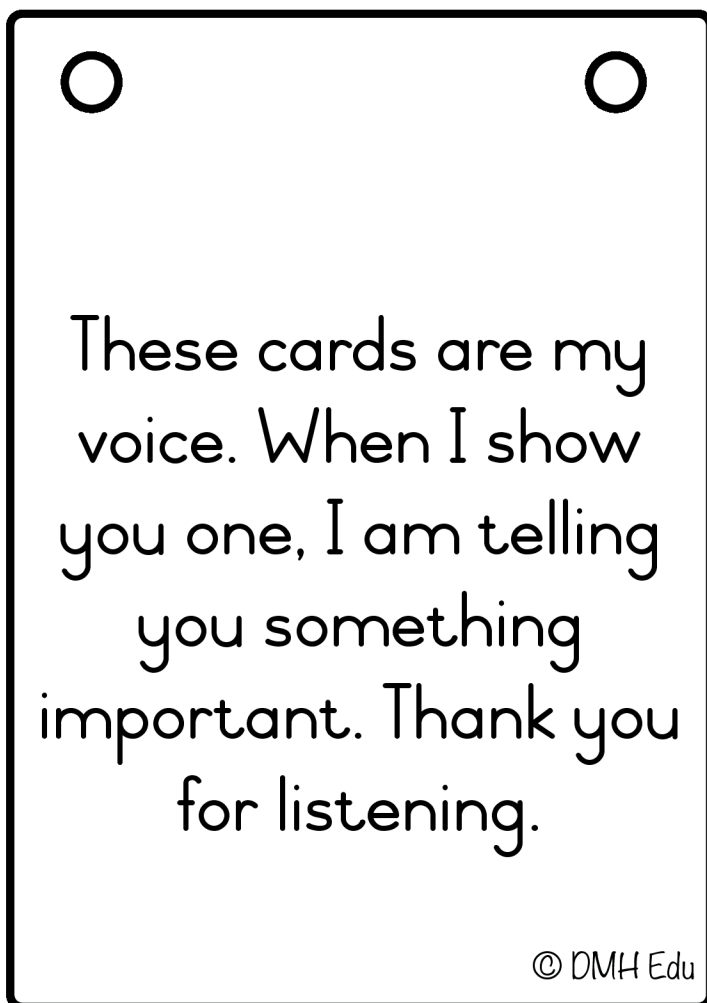
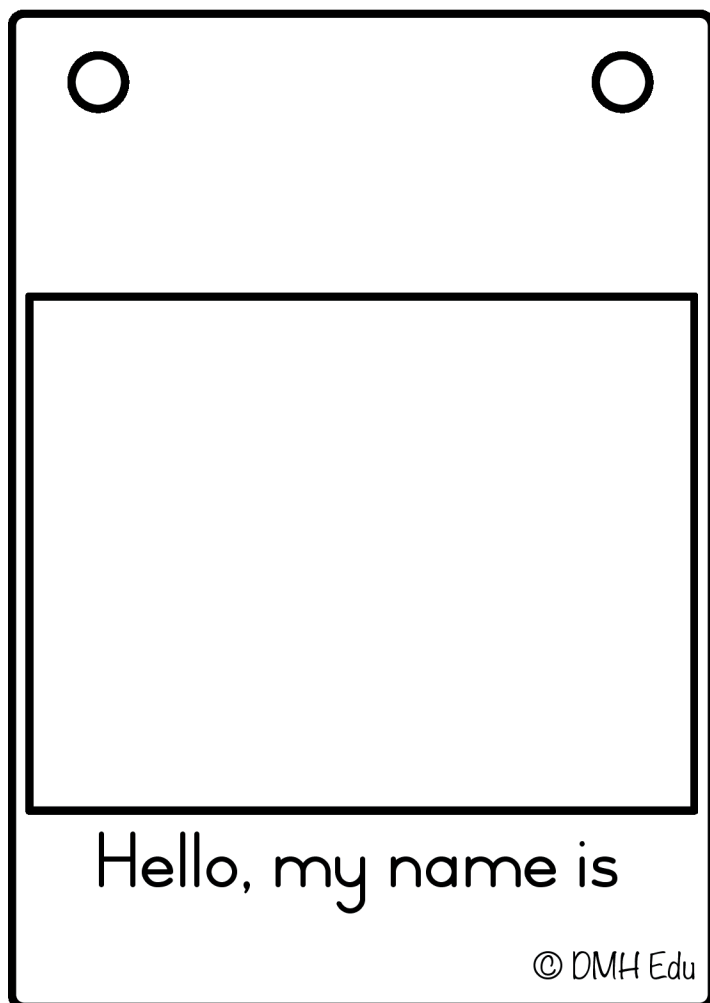
Draw, print, or stick a clear image inside the rounded rectangle in the centre of the card. The image should be simple and easy to recognise at a glance. A photograph of the actual object or person works especially well, as it is the most concrete visual for the child.

Ideas to get you started:

Names of family members or teachers... A favourite meal or snack... I want to go outside... I need a hug... My favourite TV show... I want music... I feel overwhelmed...

Keep school and home aligned:

If a new card is added at school, send a copy home; and vice versa. The child should see the same cards in both.





I am thirsty.

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I am hungry.

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I need the bathroom.

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I need a tissue.

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I feel happy.

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I feel sad.

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I feel angry.

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I feel scared.

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I don't understand.

© DMH Edu



I need help.

© DMH Edu



I am tired.

© DMH Edu



I feel sick.

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It's too loud. I need quiet,
please.

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Can you show me?

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Can you help me
read?

© DMH Edu



Time to go to
school.

© DMH Edu

Please sit down.

© DMH Edu

Time to line up.

© DMH Edu

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It's time to eat.

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It's playtime.

© DMH Edu



Time to go in the
car.

© DMH Edu



Time to go to the
park.

© DMH Edu



Time to go to sleep.

© DMH Edu



Time to brush your
teeth.

© DMH Edu



Time to wash hands.

© DMH Edu



I need to go home.

© DMH Edu



I need an eraser.

© DMH Edu



I need a pencil.

© DMH Edu



I need scissors.

© DMH Edu



I need glue.

© DMH Edu



Thirsty

© DMH Edu



Food

© DMH Edu



Toilet


© DMH Edu



Tissue

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○ ○



Sleep

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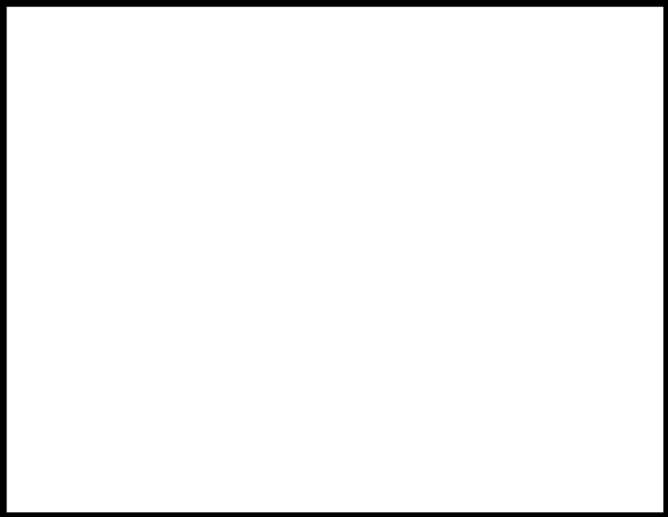
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Home

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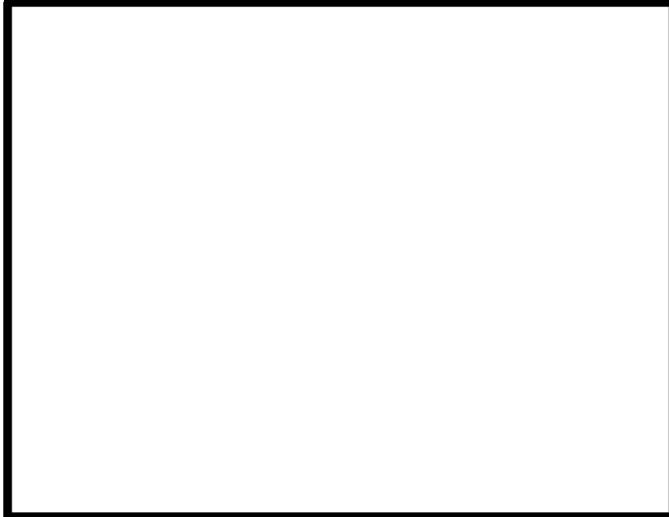
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Car

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Happy

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Sad

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Angry

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Scared

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Sick

© DMH Edu



Tired

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Help

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Read

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Sit

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Line-up

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Wash

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Brush

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Play

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Park


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Quiet

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Yes

© DMH Edu


○ ○



No

© DMH Edu


○ ○



Like

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Pencil

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Eraser

© DMH Edu



Wait

© DMH Edu



Scissors


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Glue

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More

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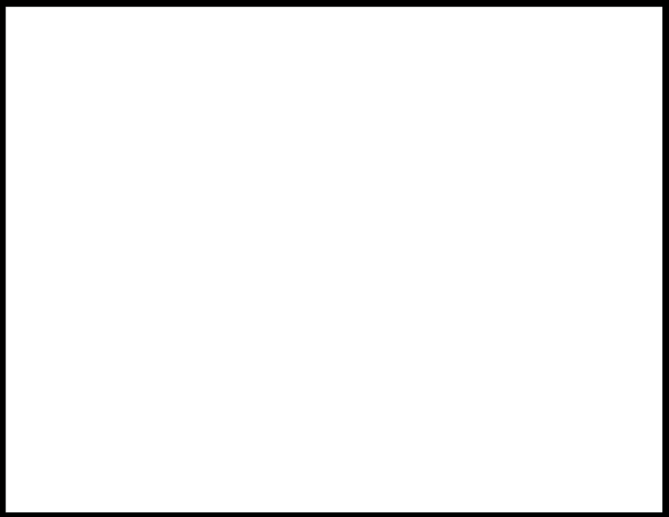
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Finished

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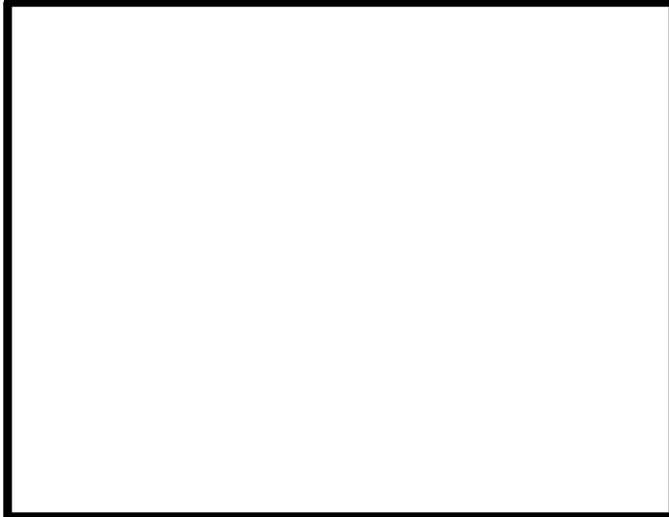
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Stop

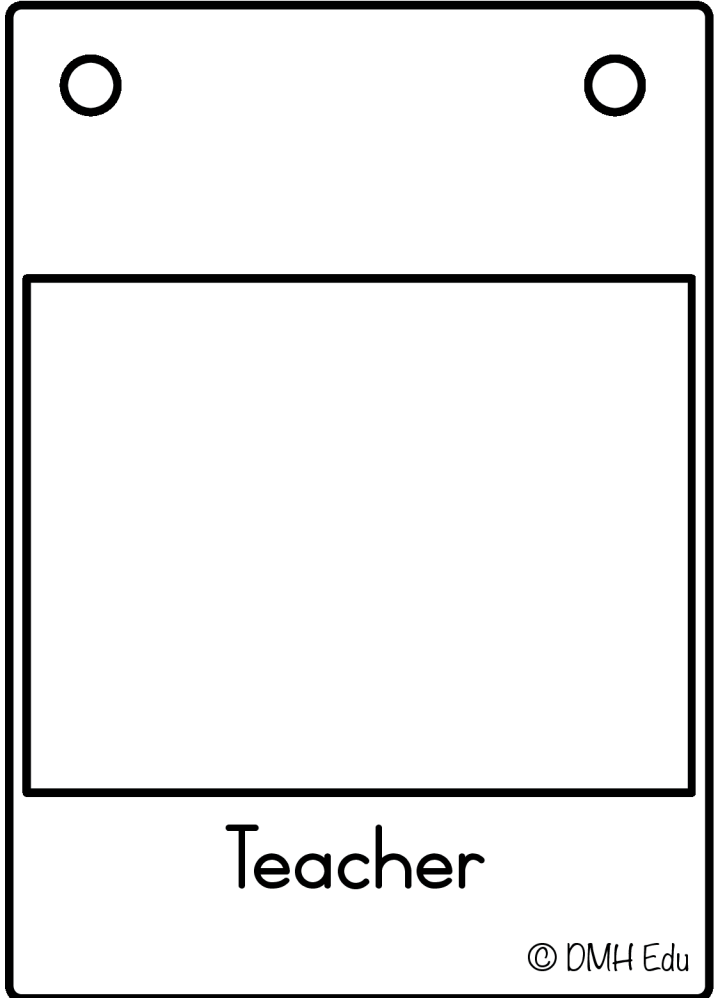
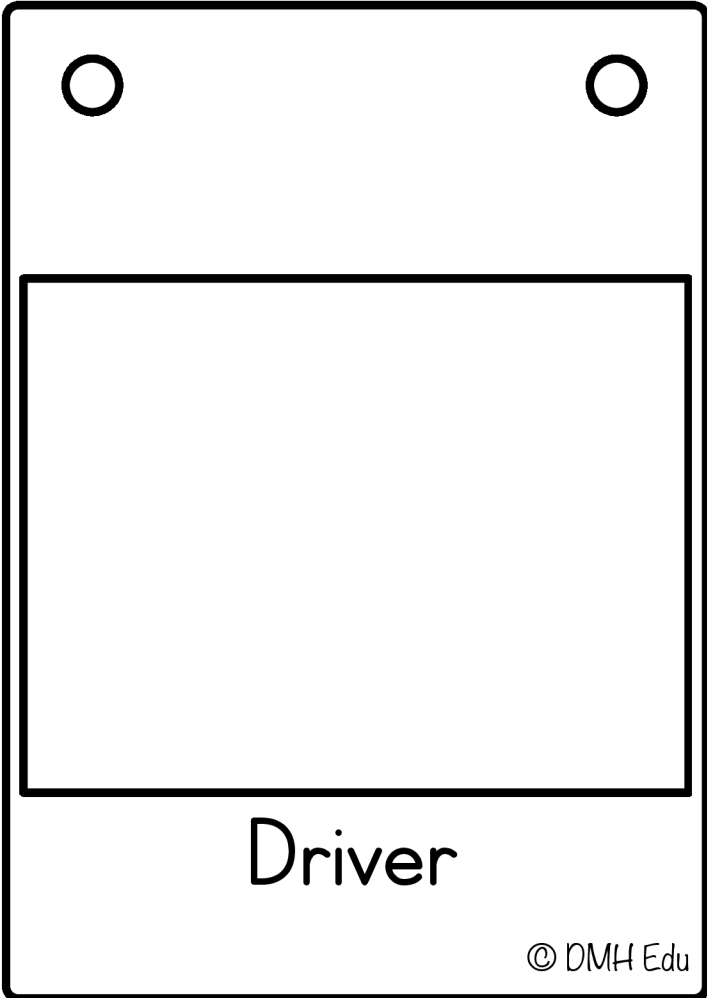
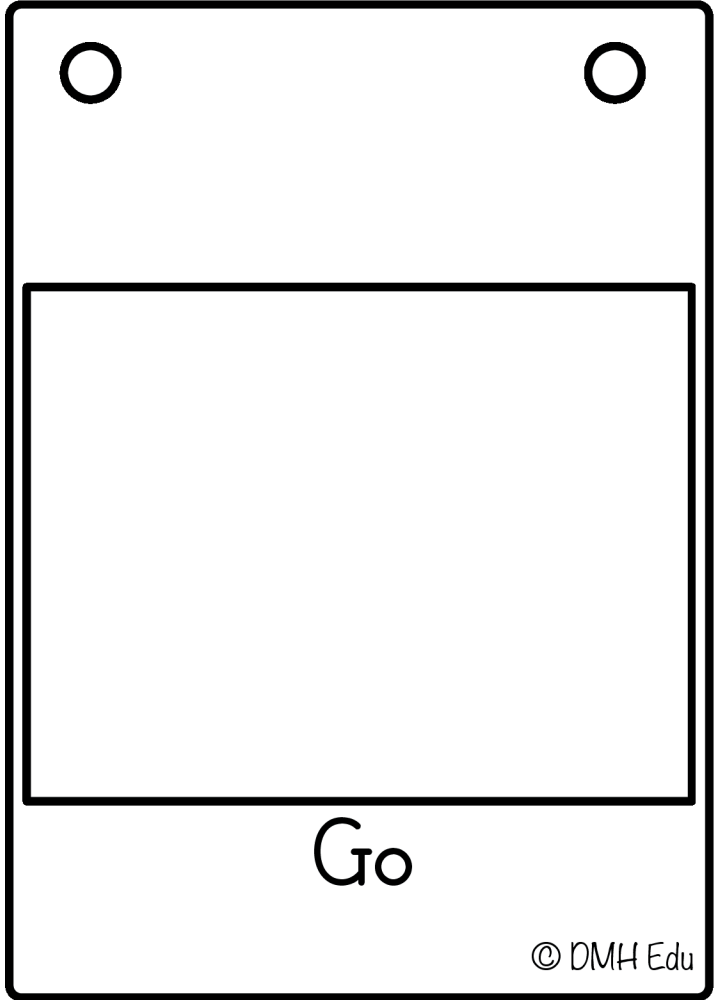
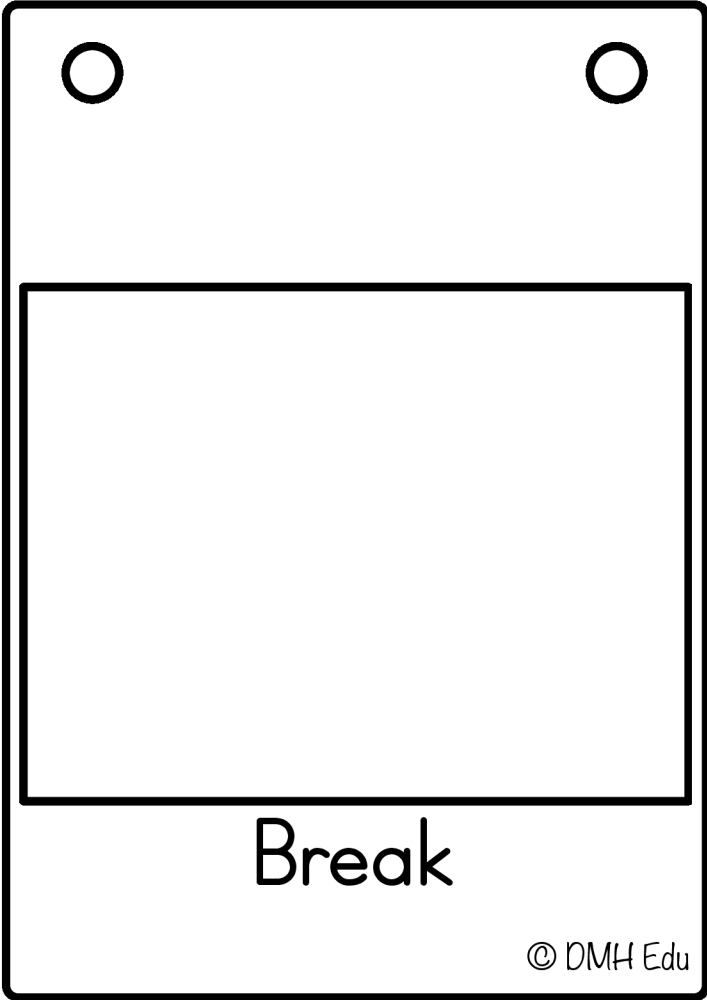
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Later

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Mother

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Father

© DMH Edu



Grandmother

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Grandfather

© DMH Edu



Brother

© DMH Edu



Sister

© DMH Edu



Aunt

© DMH Edu



Uncle

© DMH Edu



Cousin

© DMH Edu



Baby

© DMH Edu



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