

Use of visual, tactile & technological aids in mediation

Aid	General observations
Generally	<p>Technology and aids are tools and should not take away the focus on the participants.</p> <p>Some people are more visual or tactile learners. Some are auditory.</p> <p>Many people take awhile to process new information.</p> <p>Some participants may not have great literacy or numeracy skills.</p> <p>Don't stick with a particular aid if it is not working.</p> <p>Don't let the particular aid take over.</p> <p>Don't get distracted by gadgetry.</p>
Calculators & spreadsheets	<p>Handy for property settlement matters.</p> <p>Can be referred to, "It's a job for the calculators."</p> <p>A pro forma Excel spreadsheet might be useful in property or debt matters. Totals columns and % formula could already be in place.</p>
Diagrams/drawings	<p>Draw up a table/grid when discussing time with children.</p> <p>Draw the timekeeper child (stick child with clock in their middle).</p> <p>Draw a Sword of Damocles.</p>
Flip chart/butcher's paper	<p>Can display a number of different pages at the same time by sticking them up on the wall.</p> <p>Can go back to an earlier page because it has not been wiped off.</p>
Furniture	<p>A chair at the table can represent a child, for instance.</p> <p>Turn chairs so participants face the issues on the whiteboard.</p>
Photos	<p>Photos of the children can be good to have on the table or up on the wall when talking about parenting matters.</p>
Pads & paper	<p>Participants need their own paper to write on & do calculations.</p> <p>Bits of paper can be used to represent items of property or issues.</p>
Projectors & Smartboards	<p>Have some of the benefits of whiteboards plus more.</p> <p>May have to type in some things.</p> <p>Documents and spreadsheets can be displayed.</p> <p>Requires the use of a computer, which takes your attention away from the participants.</p> <p>PowerPoint could be used to show a process or model.</p>
Video	<p>At the start of a mediation it might soften the participants.</p>
Whiteboard	<p>Colour may be useful but dark markers are easier to read and copy.</p> <p>Sometime parties can have a go on the whiteboard too.</p> <p>The children's names &/or photos can be put up on the whiteboard.</p> <p>Attention can be directed to the issues on the whiteboard rather than looking at each other.</p> <p>It's not good having your back to the participants.</p> <p>If there are co-mediators one can be the scribe.</p> <p>Be careful not to remain standing and look down on participants.</p> <p>Some whiteboards let you print directly from them.</p> <p>Remember to clean the details off at the end of the mediation.</p>