Colourful semantics

A system to support spoken and written language learning across the curriculum, which can be used for:
- Sentence development
- Understanding questions
- Understanding written text
- Developing vocabulary and learning facts
- Developing narrative

What is it?

Colourful semantics is a highly effective visual way of coding the information in words and sentences. It helps children understand how the meanings of words are linked in sentences. Question words are used to clarify this meaning. Each question word is designated a colour.

Who?   Orange
What doing?   Yellow
What?   Green
Where?   Blue
To who?   Pink

How?   Black
When?   Brown

Meaning mantra

Orange words tell us who,
Yellow words tell us what doing,
Green words tell us what,
Blue words tell us where,

The intervention – what to do

Use pictures, play situations and real life situations; find the verb in the sentence, ask the questions linked to the verb to show the meaning of the sentence.

The boy is eating the cake.
Who is eating the cake? The boy
What is the boy eating? Cake
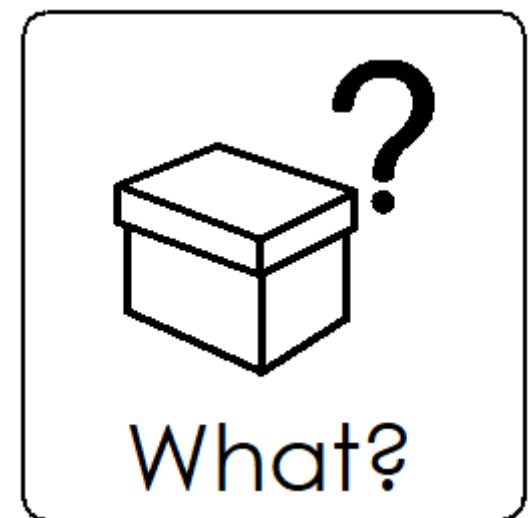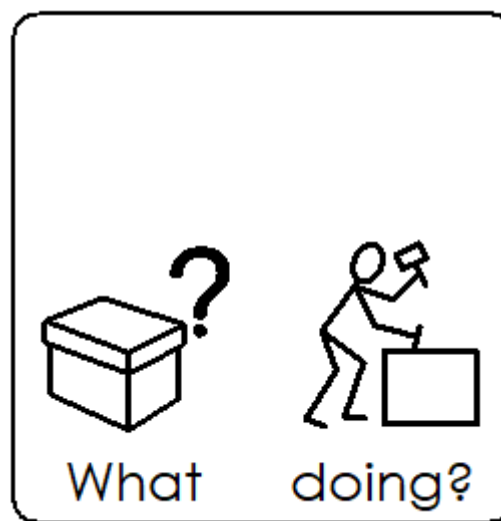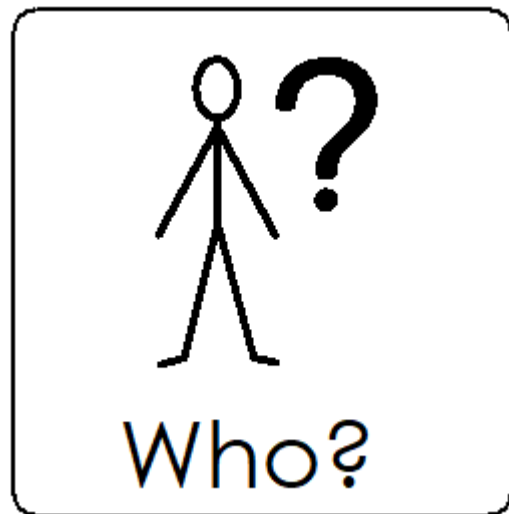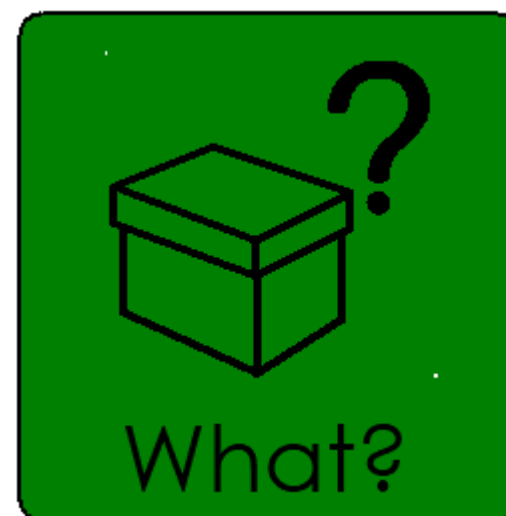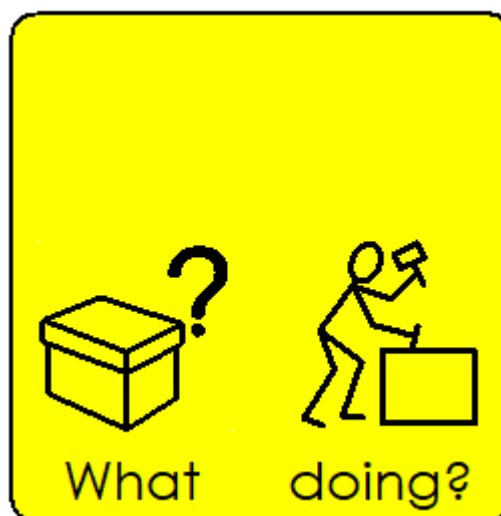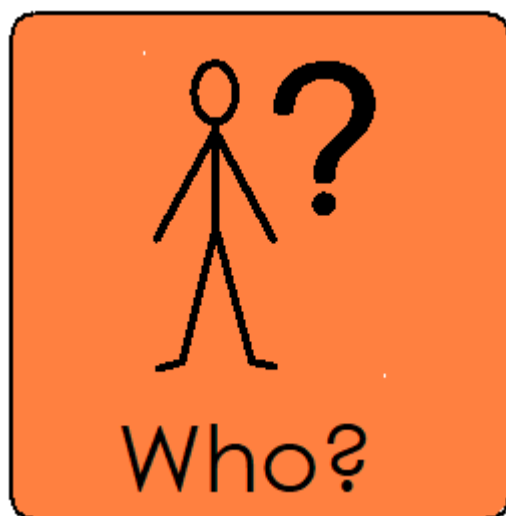What is the boy doing? Eating cake

The children are playing in the sandpit.
Who is playing in the sandpit? The children
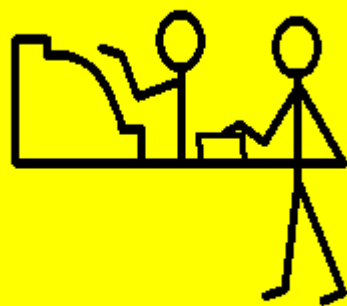Where are the children playing? In the sandpit
What are the children doing? Playing in the sandpit

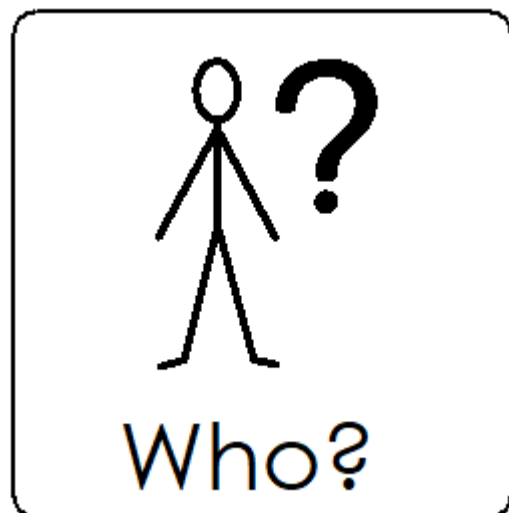| Who? | What doing? | What? |

Who?

What doing?

What?

Boy	Eating	hamburger
man	buying	shoes

Who?

What doing?

What?

Who?

What doing?

What?
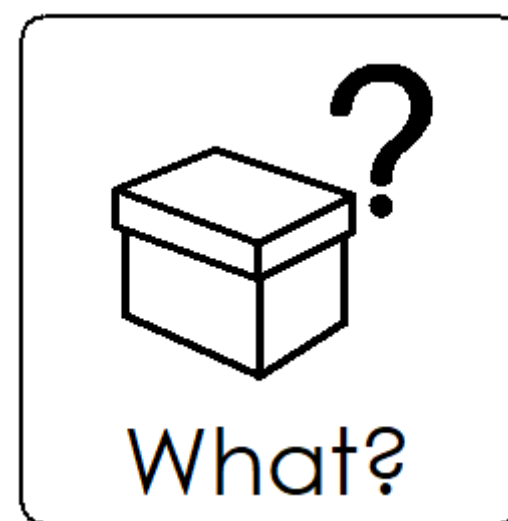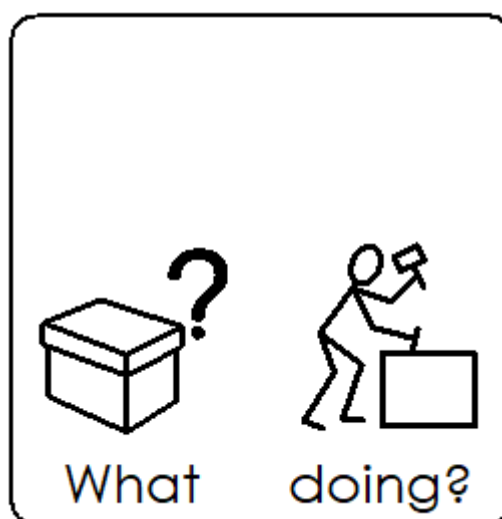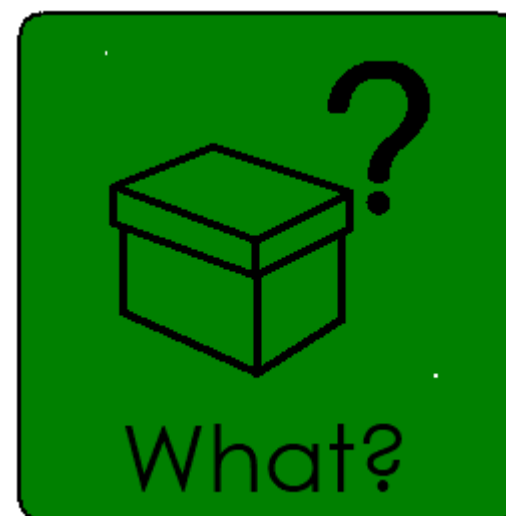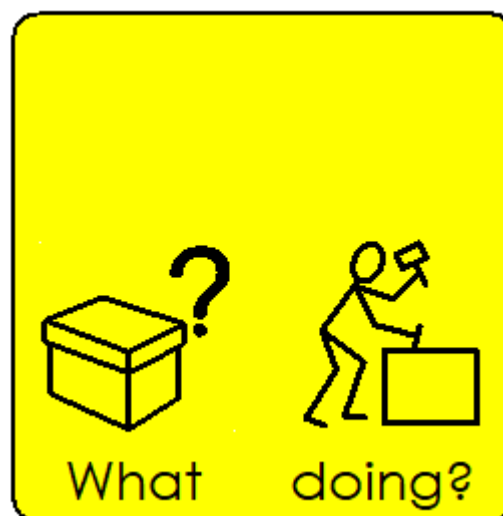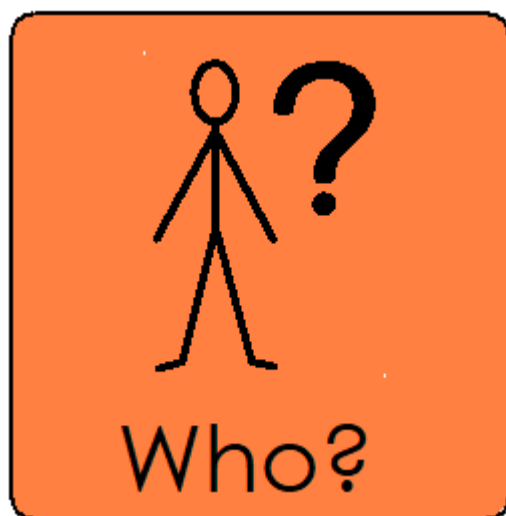
Girl	Eating	Cereal
Boy	buying	hamburger

| Who? | What doing? | What? |

| Who? | What doing? | What? |
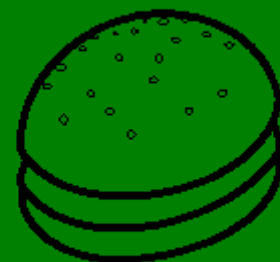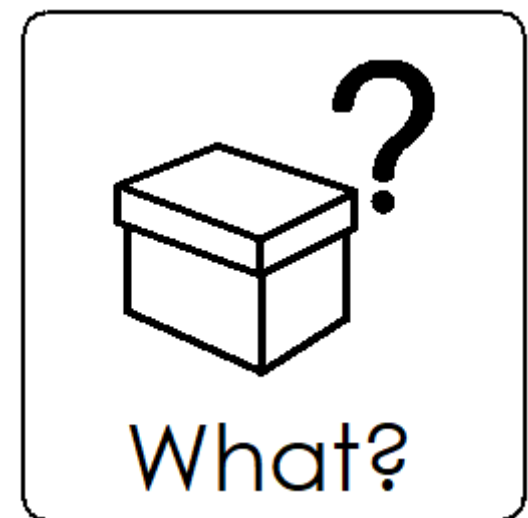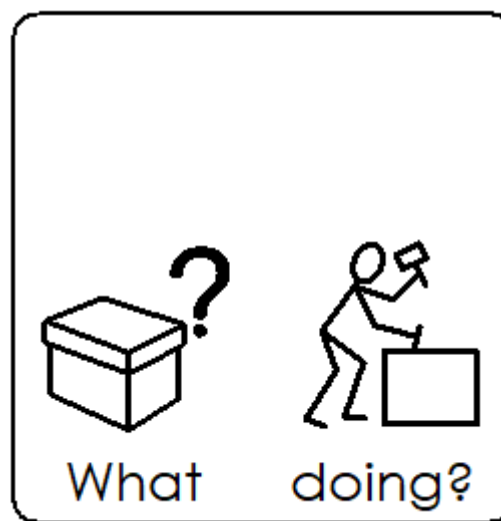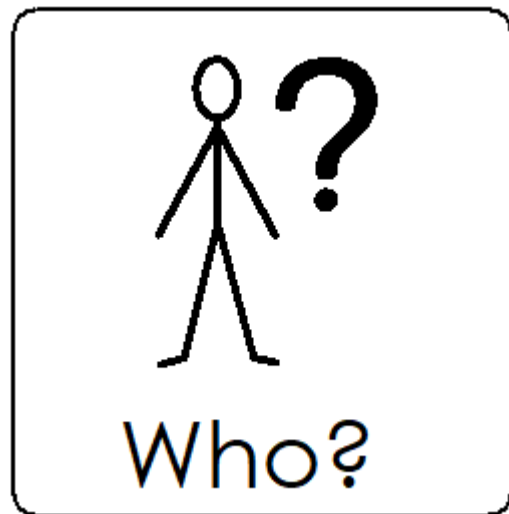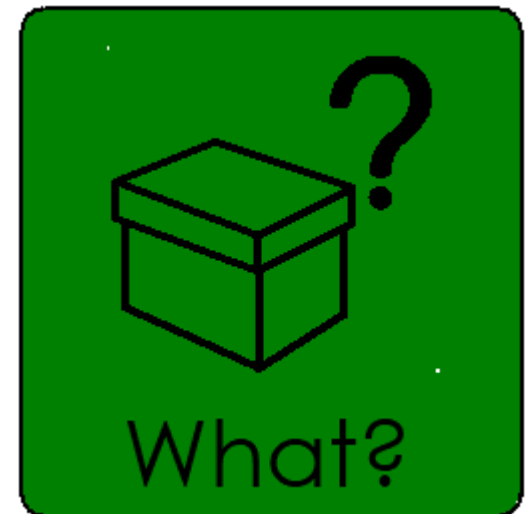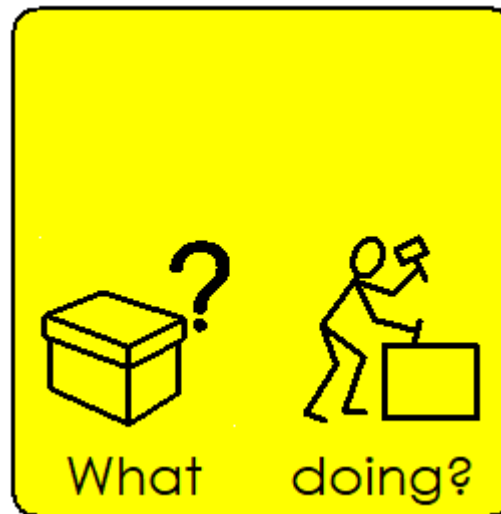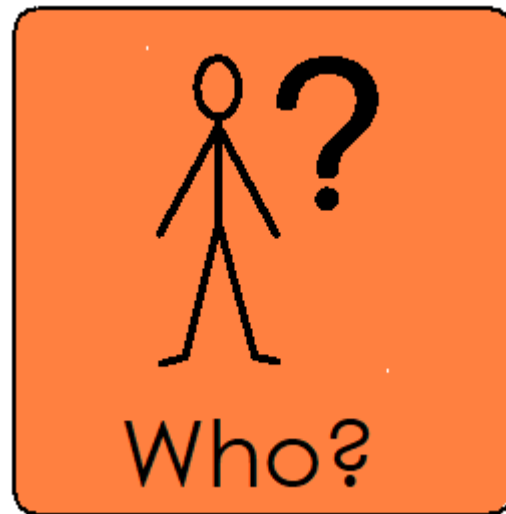
Boy	Eating	icecream
Grandad	sitting	in chair

Who?

What doing?

What?

Who?

What doing?

What?
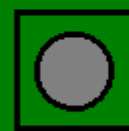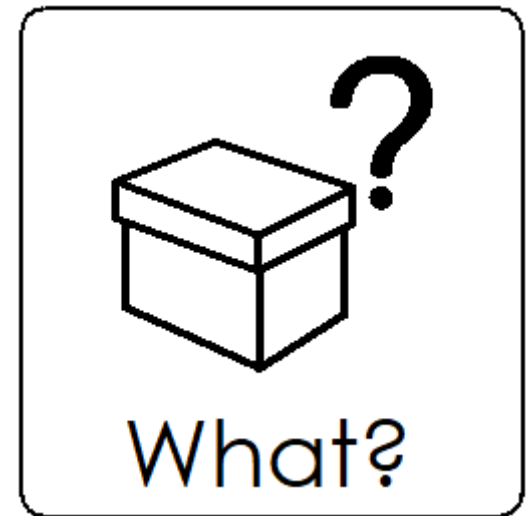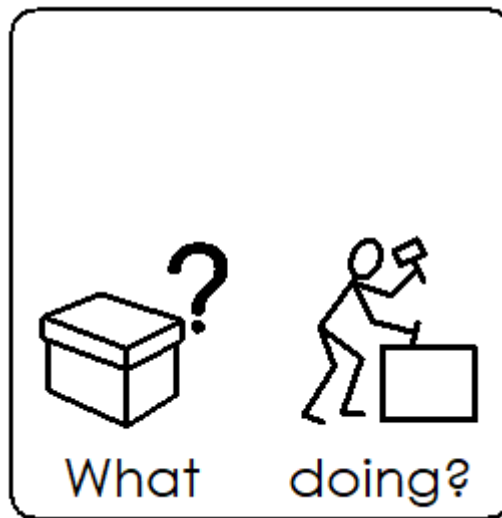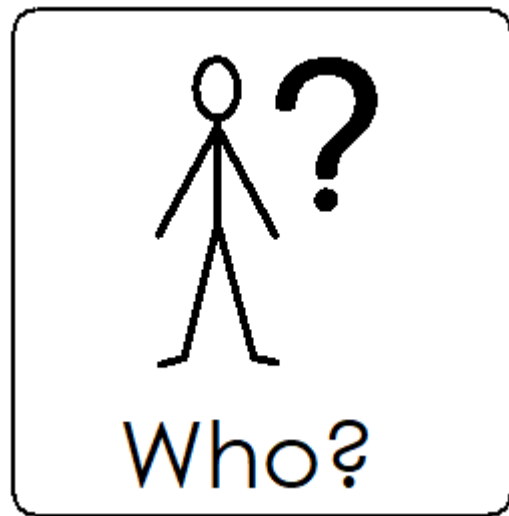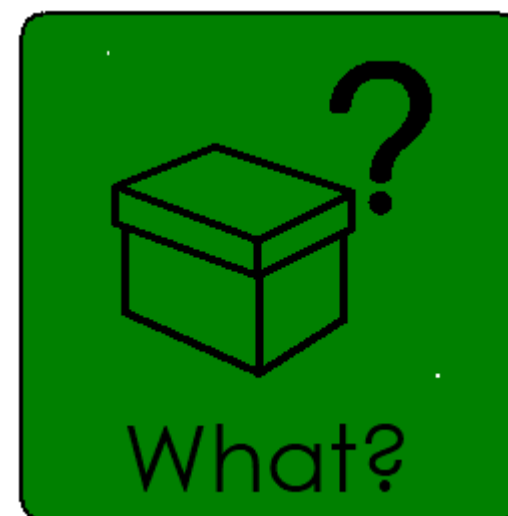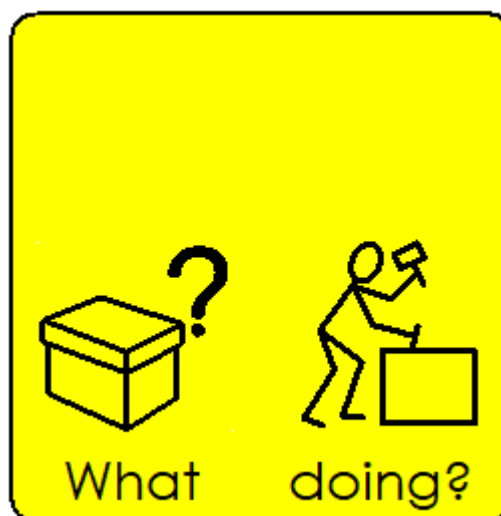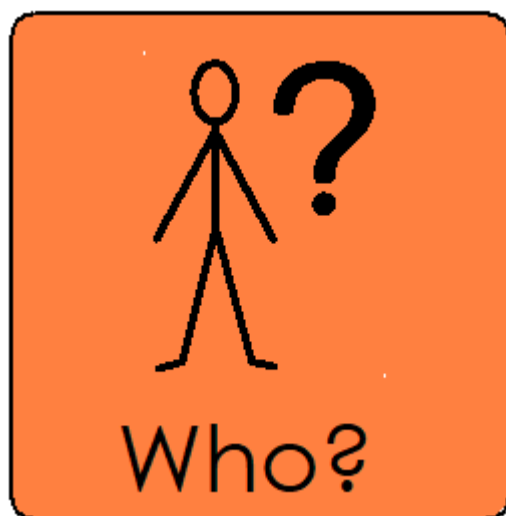
Boy	Eating	Spaghetti
Girl	planting	daffodils