

Communicating Without Speech

The aim of this activity is to:

- To understand different ways of communicating
- To highlight that not everyone uses speech to communicate



Resources needed:

- Statement cards (on the next page)

Explain the following:

As humans, we communicate in lots of different ways. You might think that the only way to communicate is using words, to show you that that this is not the case let's try out the following activity.



Method

Organise the class into groups of two or three, then hand out the statement cards (on the next page) to the children.

Ask the children to communicate what is on the card without using their voice.

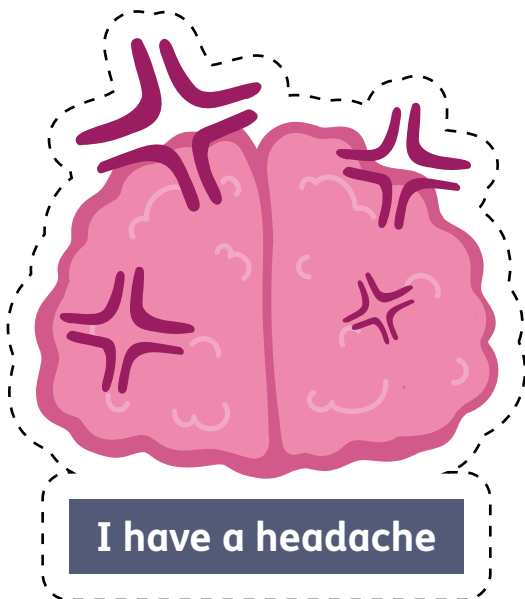
After the activity ask the children how they chose to communicate their message? Responses might include actions, body language, drawing, facial expressions, movement.

Ask the children how they felt when they were trying to communicate their message and how easy it was to understand each other.

Explain that some autistic children can find it hard to use words to communicate and may use different methods like body language, visual pictures, photographs, written words, mobile apps.

Explain that this can be difficult, which is why it is important that we are respectful of everybody's preferred style of communication. Just because someone does speak it does not mean they can't communicate.







I feel tired



What is for lunch?



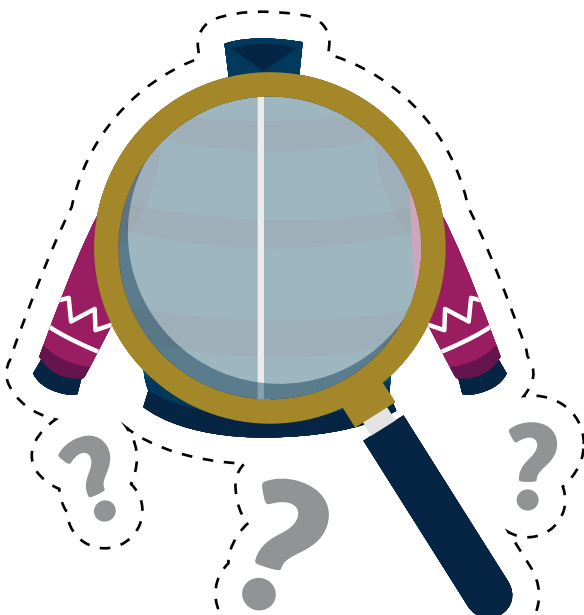
I have a toothache



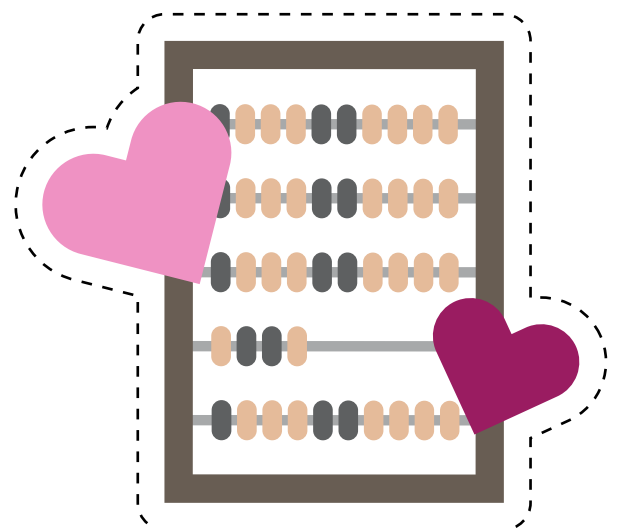
I am feeling sad



I am feeling happy



I lost my coat



I love maths