

## Visually Supported Conversations

Visually supported conversations can support a young person with language difficulties to:

- Allow thinking time for people who have difficulty sequencing narratives to share information and express their thoughts and feelings cohesively.
- Separate speech, thoughts and feelings to support understanding of situations and others views.
- Talk through the perspectives of others by creating visual representations of things that are not usually seen.
- Allow time to make sense of situations e.g. why they have done something and explore alternatives.

1. Visually supported conversations should begin with questions that provide concrete information to form the narrative. These questions are usually easier for a young person with language difficulties to answer as they do not require abstract thought:

**Where were you?**

Draw a stick figure to represent the young person

**Who else was there?**

Draw stick figures to represent others

**What were you doing?**

Use simple icons to represent actions

**What happened? / What did you/others do?**

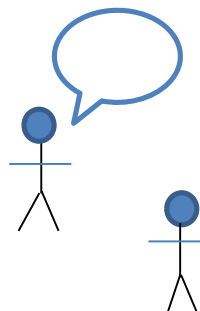
Use simple icons to represent

**What did you say?**

Use the speech bubble

**What did others say?**

Use the speech bubble



2. Once the narrative has been sequenced further questions can then be discussed to support the young person to reflect on the situation. These questions can be more difficult to answer for young people with language difficulties as they require the use of higher level language skills (inferring information, making predictions, justifying thoughts and ideas, verbal reasoning, problem solving).

**What did you think when you said that?**

Use the thought bubble

**What did others think when you said/did that?**

Use the thought bubble

**How did you feel when...?**

Use the heart shape

**How did you think others felt...?**

Use the heart shape

