

What are Comic Strip Conversations?



Comic Strip Conversations are a technique developed by Carol Gray in 1994, to assist individuals to develop a greater social understanding. A conversation or event is visually presented in a picture using stick people drawings and colour. When displayed like this, abstract aspects of social communication (for example, recognising the feelings and intentions of others) are made more concrete and therefore easier to understand.

These conversations can also provide a greater understanding into the perception of the autistic person.

Writing a Comic Strip Conversation

A comic strip can be written by the child or the supporting person. They are particularly helpful in allowing the autistic person to see another's point of view and therefore help them deal with a difference of opinion. They can also be used to prepare people for an event, providing them with useful information e.g. when it will begin and end, who will be involved and what will be expected from them.

Usually you would draw the situation with the help of the autistic person, using stick figures to represent each person in the scenario. Things people *say* are written in *speech bubbles*; things people *think* are written in *thought clouds* and *feelings* can be put in *hearts* next to the person in the comic.



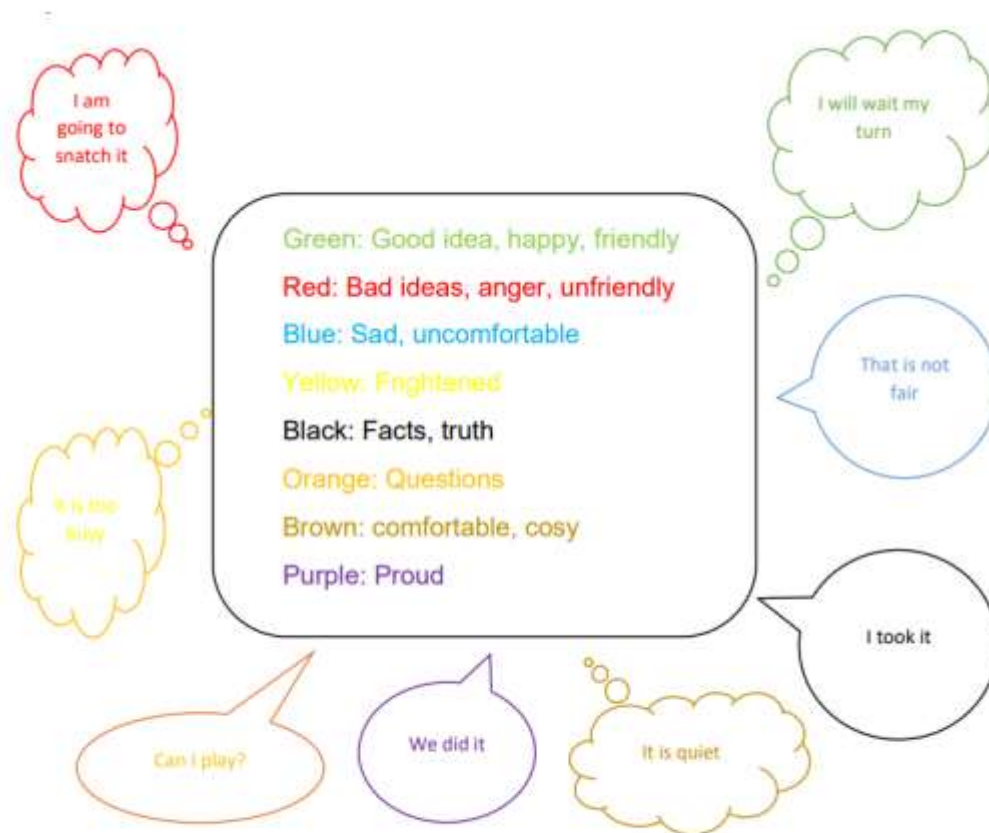
Often what we say isn't exactly what we feel or mean. Comic Strip Conversations can help clarify these misunderstands and provide solutions for people who may find interactions

confusing. They will often finish with a summary, perhaps coaching the person toward a different response the next time the situation may arise.

Sometimes children find it difficult to move on from a difficult situation. The concept of 'finished' can be promoted here. After having discussed the situation and a resolution found, the conversation could be thrown away to signify that it has now been dealt with, and no further discussion need be made.

Using colour to distinguish between emotions

The following colours can be useful to label each emotion:



Combination of colours: confused