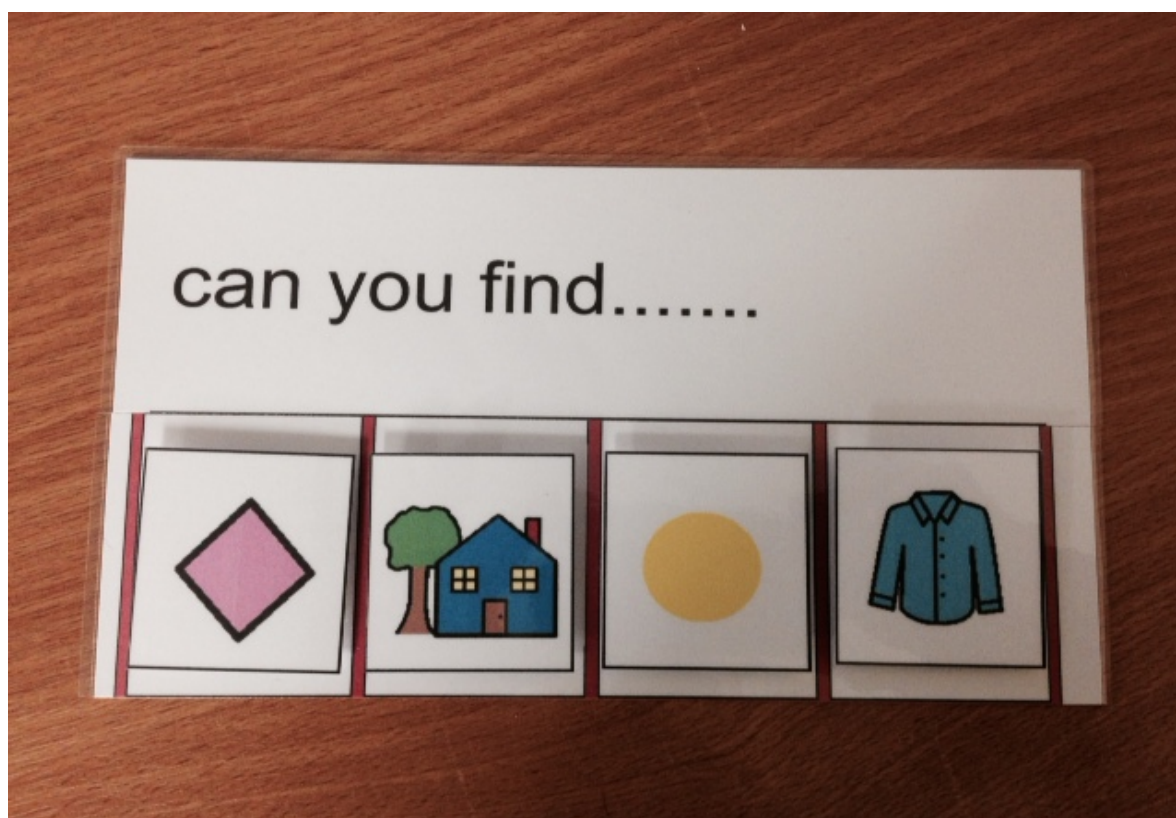


Matching and sorting

Matching and sorting activities help children to develop a range of thinking skills and build the foundations for later concepts. The visual memory and discrimination involved and the identification of patterns and relationships and similarity and difference help children to learn about early representation and problem solving. Matching and sorting activities can also be good for developing fine motor skills.

There are many commercially available resources to support matching and sorting: shape sorters, inset puzzles, picture lotto, pairs card games etc. Children with learning needs may also benefit from more personalised resources.

- A matching game with pictures that are meaningful to the child can be created using photos or picture cards that can be velcro'd to a base board. These can be matched with a duplicate set of cards or with real objects.



- Colour matching: Set out plain coloured base boards in two, three or four colours depending on the child's starting point, and ask them to match familiar objects (for example building bricks, beakers or rings from stacking sets) by colour.