Making a Song Bag or Box

A song bag is a useful resource to engage younger autistic learners in the classroom. It's easy to organise and highly effective.

It can be tempting to utilise the whiteboard to share songs and nursery rhymes. However if the adult leads the singing it allows multiple opportunities for developing communication skills that a screen cannot provide.

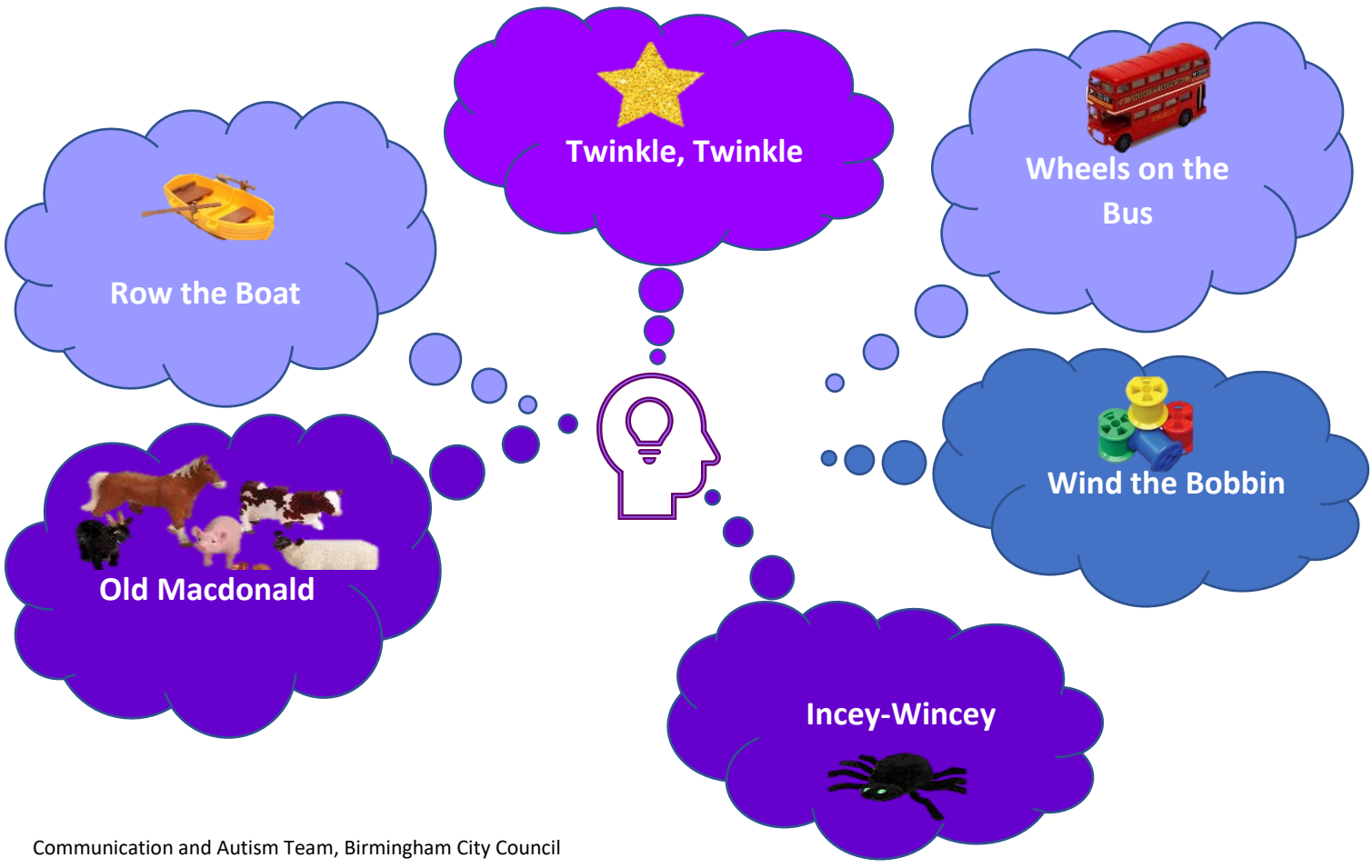
Young children are more responsive to rhymes and song than normal speech. Autistic children are often naturally more attentive to singing and nursery rhymes than being spoken to. Singing provides opportunities to increase:

- Concentration
- Listening
- Anticipation
- Awareness of self and others
- Turntaking

What to Put in the Bag?

There are lots of small boxes (Ikea do a huge range), but a simple drawstring bag is more portable.

Choose simple objects and only start with 4 to 5 at first.



Have different expectations for each child. One child we may just want to look towards the object, another child we may want them to reach toward their choice, another we may want them to label their choice verbally.

REMEMBER – Young autistic children need time to process. Leave gaps so that the children can communicate within them. Use corresponding symbols. When a child has chosen a song choice – show, then display the symbol choice prominently. Here are some symbols to get you started with your bag.

