InPrint 4

Creating Sentence Construction Activities

This guide will help you to begin to create your own bespoke sentence construction activities. There are also templates available with the formatting pre-set. These are located in the **Sentence Construction** folder in the **Templates** section. These are activities designed to assist children with developing their skills in language, vocabulary and grammatical structure. There are many ways to do this, for example, Colourful Semantics (created and developed by Alison Bryan). This could be adapted to any (or no) colour scheme and structure and for a variety of levels of ability.

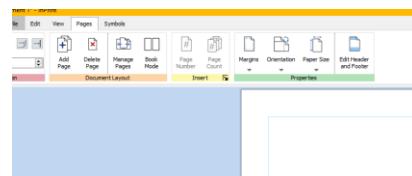✔ **After making this resource you will be able to...**

- Create an activity sheet
- Create flash cards to go with the sheet
- Write text with symbols
- Edit formatting
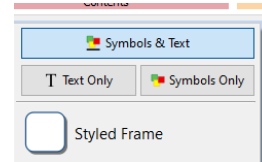- Create differentiated versions of the activity
- Save and print

🕐 This activity will take you approximately **30 minutes** to complete.

Set Up the First Page of the Activity

1. Create a new blank document.

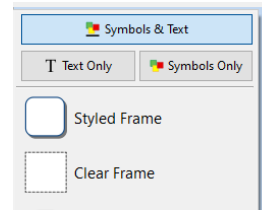**2.** Click on the **Pages** tab and add a page.

3. Create a **Styled Frame** for the page heading – click to place at the top of your document and use the drag handles to resize as required.
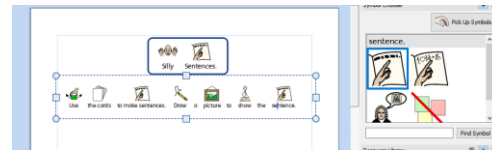

4. Type text for the heading, ensuring the symbols are as you require.

5. Create a **Clear Frame** for the page heading – click to place at the top of your document and use the drag handles to resize as required.
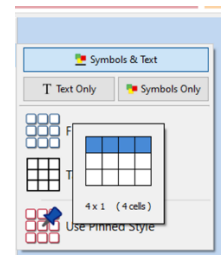

6. Type text for the instruction, ensuring the symbols are as you require.

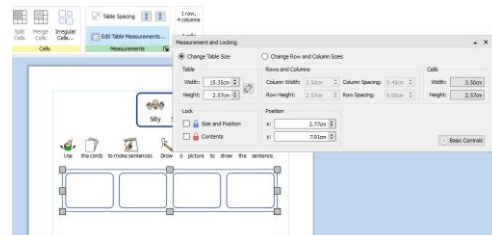## Create the Cells for the Activity

7. Click on the **Flash Cards** button in the **Create Toolbar**. Select **Symbols & Text** and drag a 4 x 1 table.
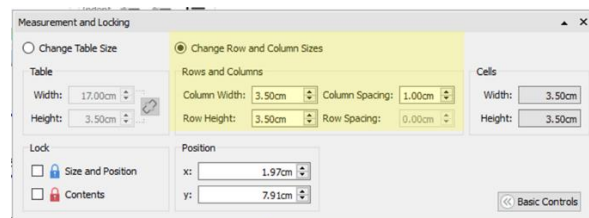

8. Click on the document to place the flash cards.

9. With the flash cards still selected, click on the **Table Layout** tab, and in the **Measurement** group click the **Edit Table Measurements** button.
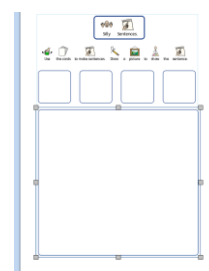
You will see a pop-up options box.

10. Click the radio button to **Change Row and Column Sizes**. Make the **Column Width** and **Row Height** 3.50cm and the **Column Spacing** 1.00cm.
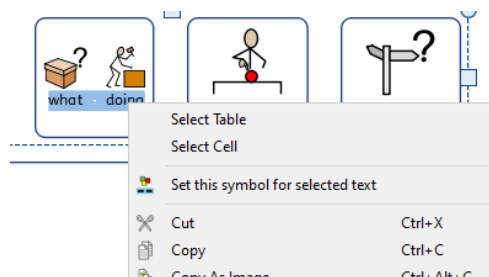

11. Create a **Styled Frame** for the drawing area – click to place at the top of your document and use the drag handles to resize as required (to fill the remainder of the page).
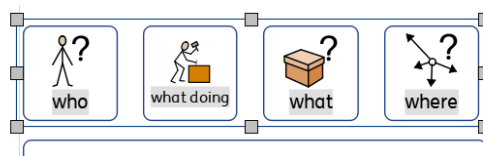
Styling the First Page of the Activity

12. Type within the 4 flash cards:
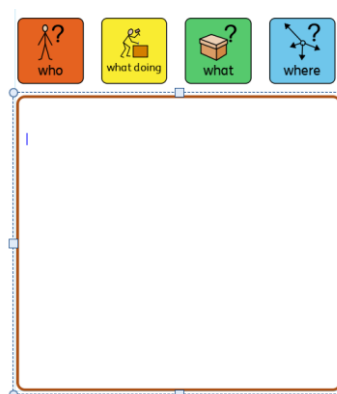who
what doing
what
where

13. In the second flash card select the text and right-click on doing, choose **Set this symbol for selected text**.

14. Check the other flash cards have your preferred symbols, if not use the **Symbol Chooser** to change.

15. Click in a cell to change its appearance using the **Cells** tab.

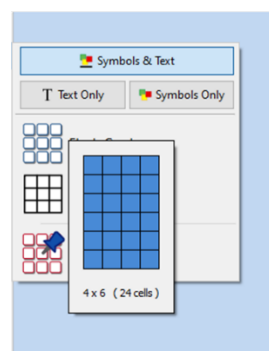Use a style (colours font etc) consistent with your policy.

16. Click in the large frame underneath and style that as required using the **Frame** tab.

Creating More Pages of the Activity

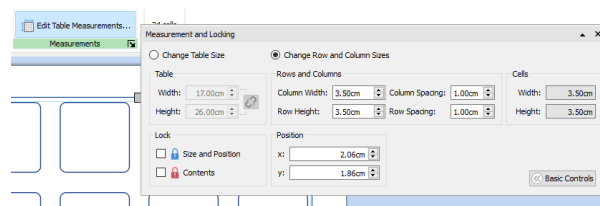**17.** Scroll down to the second page. Click on the **Flash Cards** button in the **Create Toolbar**.

Select **Symbols & Text** and drag a 4 x 6 table.

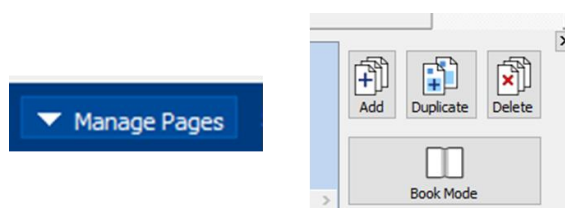**18.** Click on the document to place the flash cards.

19. With the flash cards still selected, click on the **Table Layout** tab, and in the **Measurement** group click the **Edit Table Measurements** button.
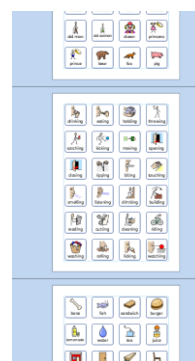
You will see a pop-up options box.

20. Click the radio button to **Change Row and Column Sizes**. Make the **Column Width** and **Row Height** 3.50cm and the **Column** and **Row Spacing** 1.00cm.
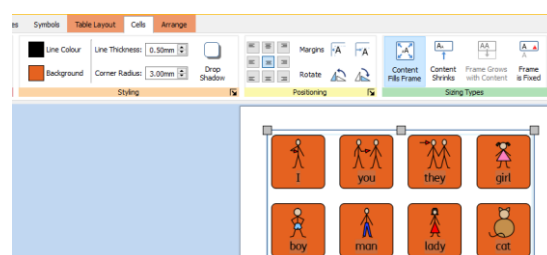
21. To make 3 more pages like this (one for each word type) click on the **Manage Pages** button and click **Duplicate**. Alter the number to 3 copies.

22. Page by page type in a series of words, use one page for each word type and use the tab button to move between flashcards.

23. Select the set of flash cards on page 2 by clicking on the page and then on the edge of the area (to get a solid line). This allows you to format all these cards at once. Change the formatting to match your first card on page 1.

24. Repeat with the other pages. You now have individual flash cards to cut out and a master sheet to photocopy for the children to use.
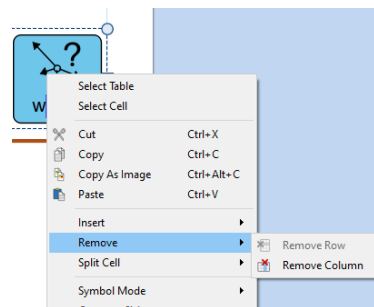
Saving and Using the Activity

Once you are happy with your document click the **File** tab and select **Save As - Save Document As**. Print the pages and cut put the cards on pages 2-5. The child would use page 1 to create a sentence using cards of the correct colour, say aloud, and then draw a picture to illustrate their sentence.
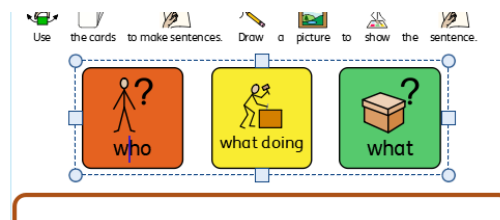
Creating Differentiated Versions of the Activity

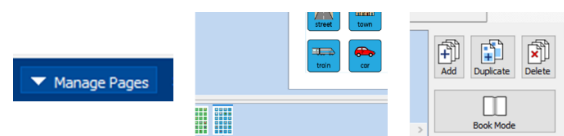You can edit the first version of the activity to simplify it, and then **Save As** a new name.

25. Open the activity and go to page 1. **Right-click** in the last card (Where) and select **Remove > Remove Column**.

26. Drag the remaining flash cards to the centre of the page.

27. Click on **Manage Pages** and then on page 5 (colour matched to the card you just removed). Click **Delete**.

28. Go to **File** tab and **Save As** – change the name and save.

29. Repeat process to create a version with 2 colours.