

# CLT Update

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## Introduction

Over the past couple of years the CLT has produced over 150 different resources for speech and language therapists (SLT) who support children and adults. The resources range from themed laminated printed cards (A4, A5, A6 and A7), to ID-size PVC cards and laser cut/engraved acrylic materials. As we are developing new resources all the time we have decided to produce annual updates so that users and supporters are kept informed of our progress.

In this first issue of *Update* we will be discussing some of the CLT resources that are becoming firm favourites with our users and the newer materials that are currently being assessed.

## Laser-produced materials

A wide range of laser cut/engraved tiles, jigsaws and dominoes are available for paediatric SLT work. Most are made from white/blue acrylic laminates, but we now produce them in special two-colour plywood. The latter are sprayed with a clear lacquer to enable effective cleaning with antibacterial wipes. Popular nine-piece jigsaws have the themes of transport, fruit, vegetables and clothes. Tiles and dominoes are similarly themed.



Acrylic (left) and wooden jigsaws with the theme of transport.

## The use of ID-size plastic cards

Small ID cards were first used by the CLT when a resource called *Semantic Categorization* was made for SLT work with adults. The standard ID plastic cards (86 mm x 54 mm) have themed images and are used with a special template. These focus on the patient's ability to organise groups of related objects into different category levels (superordinate, basic and subordinate categories). The cards, printed in-house on an ID card printer, have high-resolution coloured images.

Since then we have significantly increased the range and scope of the printed cards and they are included in basic sets of SLT resources for both children and adults (see *adjacent column*).



ID-size cards covering food, animals and transport used during therapy with children.

## Basic sets of SLT resources

The CLT has two sets of resources, one for SLT work with children and the other for adults, based on the feedback from specialist therapists. These basic sets are given to organisations in Romania and the UK that request our materials and to selected therapists, especially those at the start of their career. To-date five sets for children and seven sets for adults have been issued. These sets will be augmented as new and improved products are produced.

The two typical sets contain the following:

### Set for children

#### ID-size plastic cards

No. image cards: 126

Themes: food; clothes; animals

Semantic Categorization Templates: Three different configurations

#### Laminated Cards

Size: A6

Themes: prepositions; verbs; emoji

#### Jigsaws (9-piece)

Size: 13 cm x 13 cm

Themes: African animals; transport

#### Picture Boards (laminated card)

Size: A4

Themes: fire station; hotel; school; construction site; Cinderella

### Set for adults

#### ID-size plastic cards

No. image cards: 122

No. word cards: 145

Themes: flowers; gardens; wild animals; fruit; vegetables; prepared food; supermarket; cats; dogs; birds

Semantic Categorization Templates: Three different configurations

#### Laminated Cards

Size: A6

Themes:

Pictograms - growing fruit and flowers; jobs in the garden; a day at home; sport; what are they doing?

Prepositions

Food Preparation; jobs around the home (photos); flowers; gardens; cats; dogs; birds

Size: A7

Theme:

Emoji

#### Picture Boards (foamed PVC)

Size: 20 cm x 20 cm and A4

Themes: cross sections of airport; railway station and house; painting by Joachim Beuckelaer (fruit/vegetables)



The basic set of SLT resources designed for use during therapy with adults.

## Miniature dioramas

A few years ago we produced 16 different miniature dioramas for children with autism at the Transylvanian Autism Association in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Subsequently, three dioramas were given to the Hungarian School, Kozmutza Flóra Hallássérültek Speciális Iskolája in the same city for use in a class of children with learning difficulties. As these proved very successful a demountable version was developed enabling the teacher or therapist to create in only 2-3 minutes any themed diorama.

We are currently making three dioramas (living room, garden and a clothes shop) to be assessed for their usefulness during SLT work with young children.

## Recent Developments



Set of laser cut and engraved acrylic dominoes based on emoji.



Picture boards on foamed PVC depicting folk tales and children's stories.



Laminated A6 card resources on 'Going out' for adult SLT work.



Laser cut and engraved acrylic circular 4-piece jigsaws.



Miniature diorama of a market fish stall with Hungarian signs.



Magnetic rubber pieces for semantic categorization and vocabulary.

## The importance of feedback

Colleagues receiving our resources will know that we always ask for one thing - FEEDBACK! In order to improve our resources and develop new ones we need to have the constructive views of the users. Before any of our materials are issued to SLTs they are thoroughly checked by experienced therapists working with either children or adults. But the more comments we receive, the more effective our resources become. To help users compile their comments we can supply a one-page feedback form with a simple ranking system for the resources they received from CLT.

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS ESSENTIAL!**

## Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the help of specialist firms in Romania and the UK that enable us to produce certain resources.

### Laser engraving and cutting

SC Pretext Advertising SRL, Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
Ashford Lasers (UK)

### Specialist printing

SC Publisys SRL, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

### Specialist printing/profile cutting

Wallace Print, Strood, UK

## Attractive resources

Finding effective materials that young children will engage with is always a challenge. Children can become easily bored and distracted so having different types of resources is important. Following a request from colleagues at the Maltez Kindergarten in Cluj-Napoca we have been exploring the possible uses of SLT resources printed on to magnetic rubber.

Children are often intrigued by shaped magnetic pieces, such as images of animals, that 'magically' stick to a white board and their attention can be regained. For adults, therapists can find that resources printed on laminated cards are difficult to use with bedridden adults as the cards tend to slip and slide over the bed. We are currently evaluating trial sets of magnetic resources.

## Specialist Adviser

We are very pleased to report that Lucy Mackechnie, a Highly Specialist SLT, has kindly agreed to become a Specialist Adviser to the CLT. Lucy has extensive experience of adult SLT and is guiding us on new resources for use in her work.

## CLT website

Do have a look at our new website that has been created for us by Vernon Benjafield. [www.creativelearningtrust.org.uk](http://www.creativelearningtrust.org.uk)

## Thank you for your support

There are several ways for you to support our work. You can send us a bank cheque, Charities Aid Foundation or Stewardship donation, made payable to the 'CLT'. Mailing address:

**Dr. David R. White, CLT, 24 Cherry Walk, Hayes, BROMLEY, Kent, BR2 7LT.** (Tel: 020 8462 7944)

Alternatively, you can transfer donations by Internet banking:

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