

# Alex and Rosie Make a Wildlife Garden



A Story with Widgit Symbols

David Blakesley and Tharada Blakesley

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# Introduction

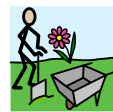
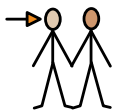
'Alex and Rosie Make a Wildlife Garden' tells the story of two children, Alex and Rosie, who visit a wildlife garden in Suffolk with their parents, and are inspired to make a wildlife garden of their own. We hope that it will appeal to autistic children and children with speech and language difficulties, and encourage their interest in attracting wildlife to their own garden.

This eBook was generously funded by the Nineveh Charitable Trust and Activities Unlimited. An audiovisual edition is also available on the Activities Unlimited website and the Widgit Software Ltd YouTube channel. We would like to offer special thanks to artist Giles Whitehead for kindly reading the audiovisual version. Sound recordings for the audiovisual edition were recorded by Tone Blakesley and sourced from the British Library (© copyright British Library Board and Wildlife Sound Trust) with special thanks to Cheryl Tipp. We are also grateful to Chris Southwell for his continued support for our work and help with publicity. We would also like to thank Tone Blakesley and Steven Falk who kindly allowed us to base artwork on their wildlife photographs. We would like to thank Guillaume Duclaud-Williams (Widgit Software Ltd) for his valuable advice on symbolising the text. Finally, we would like to thank Tone Blakesley for the design, editing and production of both the eBook and audiovisual editions. The eBook can be downloaded from the websites of Activities Unlimited and Widgit Software Ltd.





Alex and Rosie are very excited.



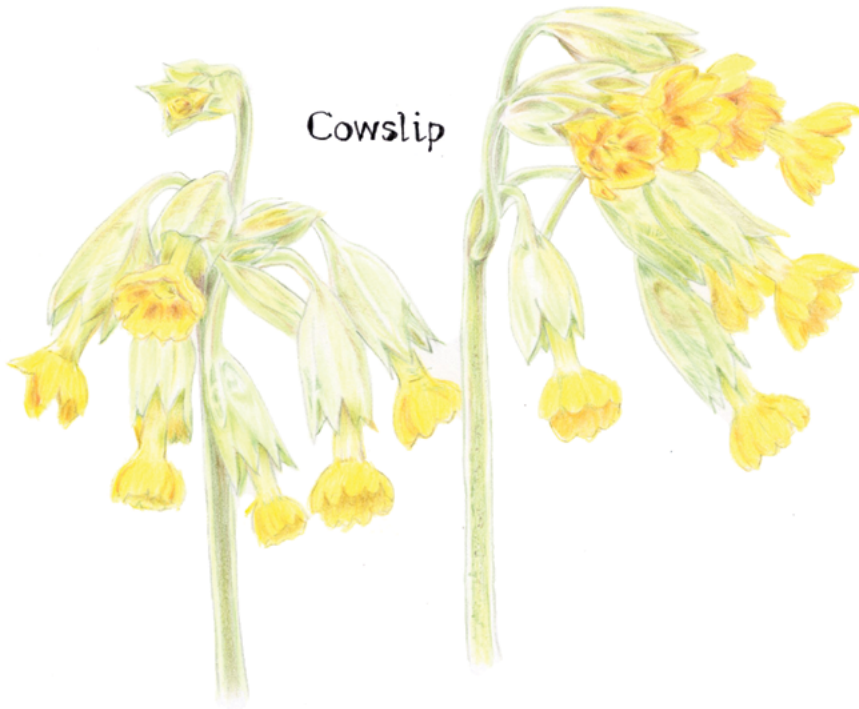
They are going to visit a wildlife garden in Suffolk.





"This is Flatford RSPB Wildlife Garden," said Dad.

"We may get ideas to help wildlife in our garden."



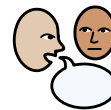
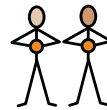
Cowslip



Primrose



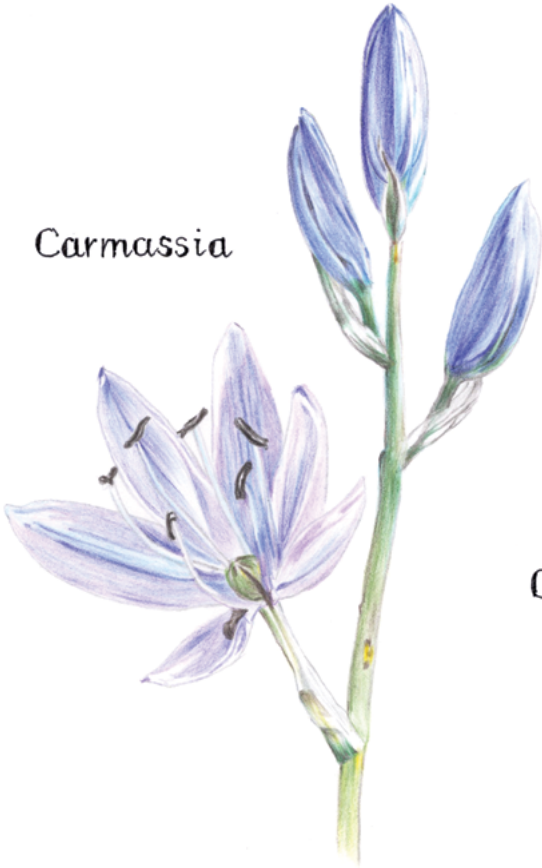
Cowslips and primroses were flowering in Flatford garden.



"We could sow wild flower seed in our garden," said Rosie.



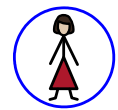
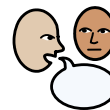
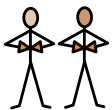
Carmassia



Common carder bee



Bumblebees were collecting pollen from garden flowers.



"We

should

plant

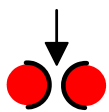
garden

flowers

too,"

said

Mum.



Nearby,

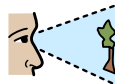


Alex

and



Rosie



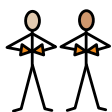
saw

an



enormous

bee hotel.



"We

could



make

a



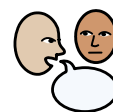
bee hotel...



a little



smaller!"



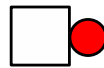
said



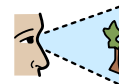
Alex.



Smooth newt



There was a wildlife pond next to the beehive.



Alex and Rosie were very excited to see a newt.



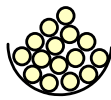


Alex



and

Rosie



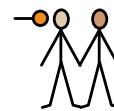
had

many



ideas

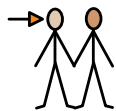
for



their own



garden.



But

they

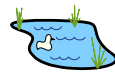


wanted to

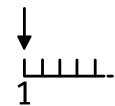


dig

a

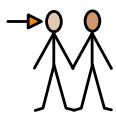


pond

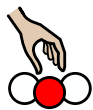


first!





They



chose

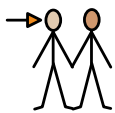


a part of

the

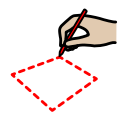


lawn.



Then

they



marked

the



shape

of the



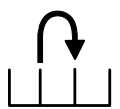
pond

with

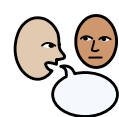
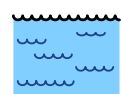
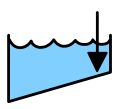


string.

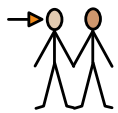




Next, they dug up the turf. It was very hard work!



"Shallow water is best for wildlife," said Dad.



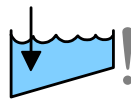
They



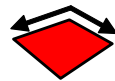
also



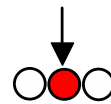
dug



a deeper



area



in the middle.



Rosie



removed



the stones



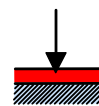
whilst



Alex



added

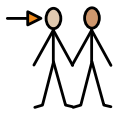


a layer

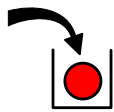


of sand.





They



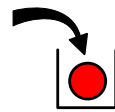
put



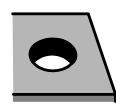
a waterproof



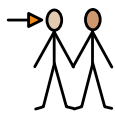
liner



into

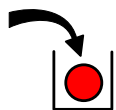


the hole.



Then

they



put



soil

and



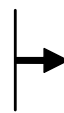
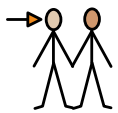
turf



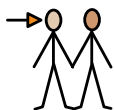
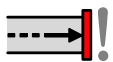
around



the edge.



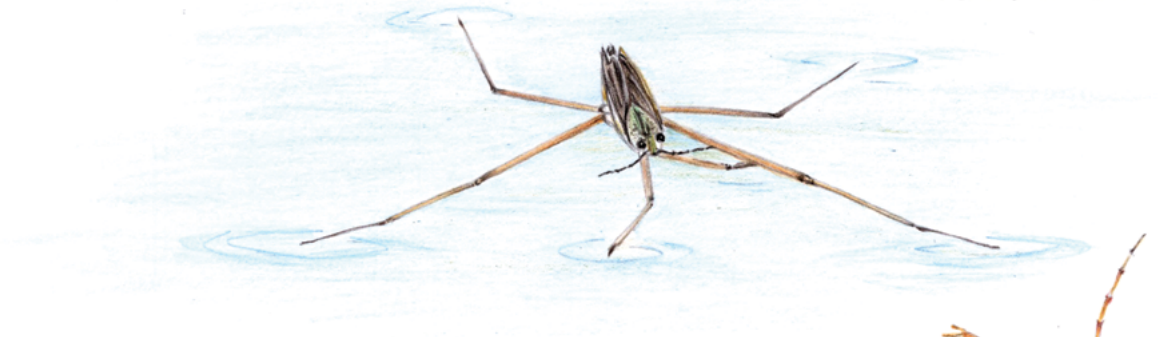
They filled the pond with rainwater from the water butt.



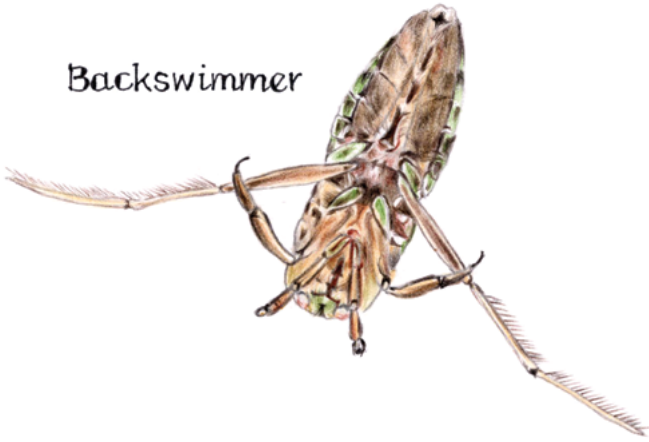
Finally, they planted some native pond plants.



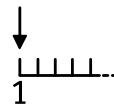
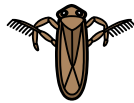
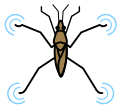
Pond skater



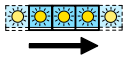
Backswimmer



Great diving beetle



Pond skaters and backswimmers were first to visit the pond.



A few days later, a magnificent diving beetle visited.



Azure damselfly



Pond olive mayfly



Mayflies arrived in the summer.



Alex

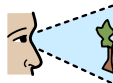
and



Rosie



also



saw



damselflies

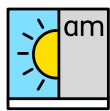


around

the



pond.



One morning,



Alex

and



Rosie



heard

a



croaking



sound.



There was a

frog

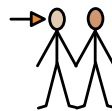
in



their



pond.



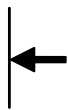
They

were very



excited!





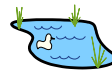
Back



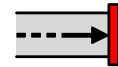
in the spring,



after the



pond



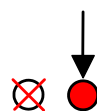
was finished...



The family



thought about



other



parts of

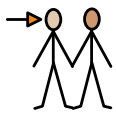


their



garden.





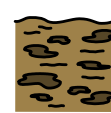
They



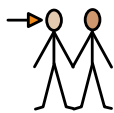
cleared a patch of weeds



and raked



the soil.



Then they



carefully



sowed



some



wild flower seed.

Cornflower



Poppy



Corn marigold



Common knapweed



Meadow cranesbill

Corncockle



Alex



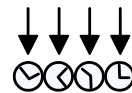
and Rosie



watered the



plants



regularly.



In summer,

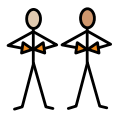


the wild flowers

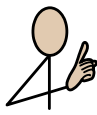


looked beautiful.

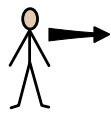




"We



should



join



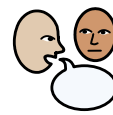
'No



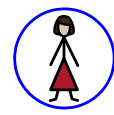
Mow



May',"



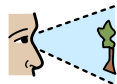
said



Mum.



"Let's

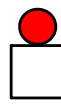


see

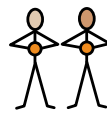
what



grows



on



our



lawn!"

Selfheal



Oxeye daisy



Red clover



Buttercup



Bird's-foot-trefoil

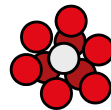


Wild flowers

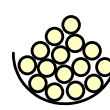


in the

lawn



attracted

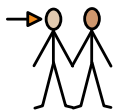


a lot

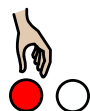
of



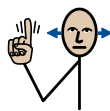
insects.



They



decided



not

to



mow

in



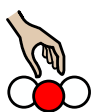
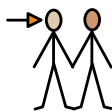
June

either!





Mum wanted to plant some garden flowers.



At the garden centre, they chose flowers good for pollinators.

Helenium



Ceratostigma



Hollyhock



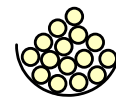
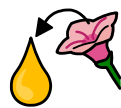
Lavender



Dahlia

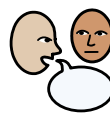


In summer, the flowers were magnificent.

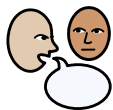


The flowers provided nectar and pollen for a lot of insects.





"I want to prune the ivy," said Dad.

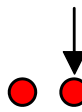


"No!" said Alex. "Ivy is very good for wildlife!"

Blackbird



Ivy bee



Ivy flowers attracted bees and other insects in the autumn.



In the winter, thrushes and wood pigeons ate the ivy berries.





Alex



and

Rosie



made



bee hotels

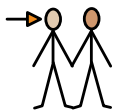
with



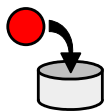
old



plant pots.



They



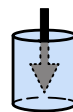
packed

their



plant pots

with



hollow

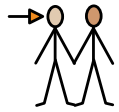


bamboo canes.

Red mason bee



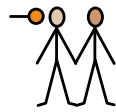
Leaf-cutter bee



They



put



their



bee hotels



in sheltered,



sunny



places.

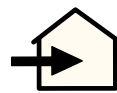


Leaf-cutter bees

and



mason bees



nested

in



their

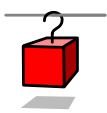
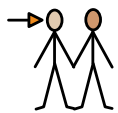


bee hotels!

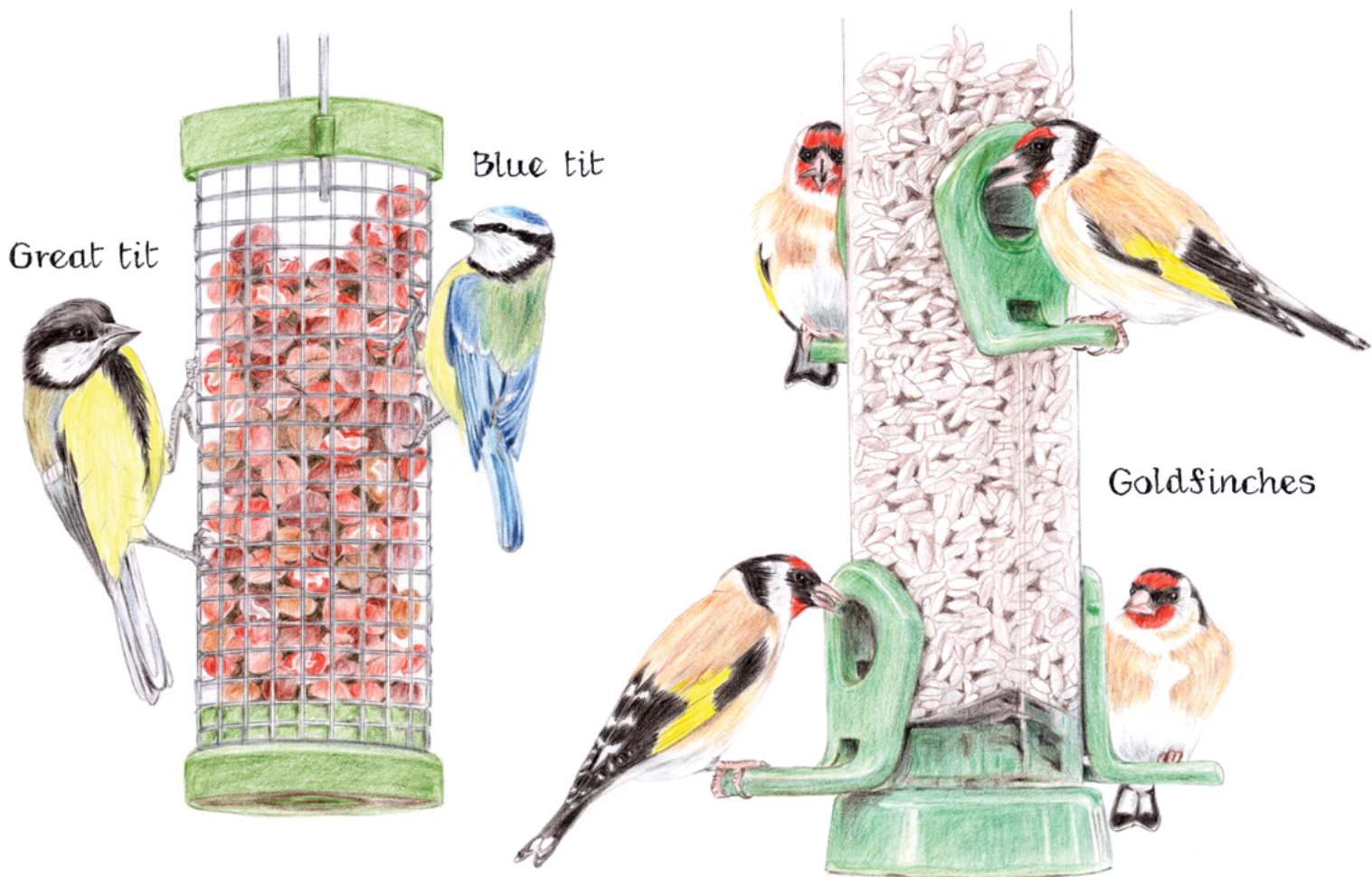




In the autumn, Alex and Rosie thought about the birds.



They hung bird feeders on the tree in their garden.



Alex

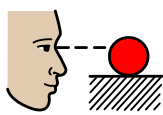
and



Rosie



enjoyed

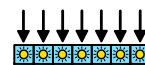


watching

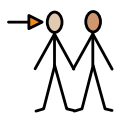
the



birds



every day.



They



kept

a



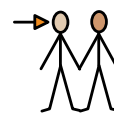
list

of the

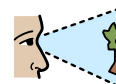


birds

that



they



saw.





Alex



Rosie

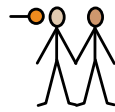


are very



proud

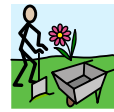
of



their



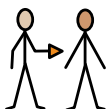
wildlife



garden.



Can



you

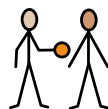


help



wildlife

in



your



garden?



Alex and Rosie visit a wildlife garden with their parents, and feel inspired to create a wildlife garden of their own.

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