A Guide to Picture and Symbol Sets for Communication by Sally Millar, CALL Scotland 2010

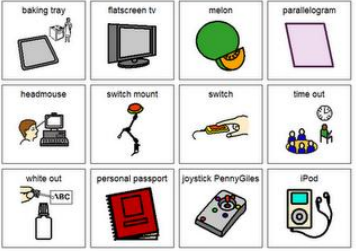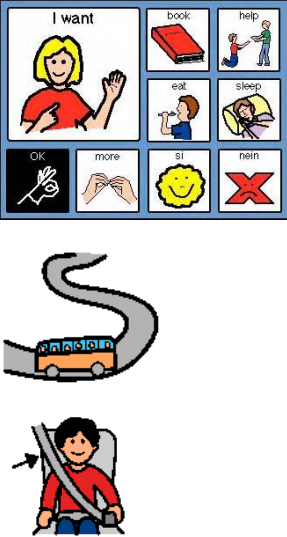| Name of Pics/Symbols	Examples	Type / Distinguishing Features	Use & comments	Associated Software	Contact Info
Colour Photographs	Any – digital or 'ordinary' photo.	Colour, fully pictorial, can be 100% specific and fully personalized so meaningful to user. But photos can often be too 'busy', poorly composed and poorly lit, so may be visually difficult to process, for some users.	Widely used, especially as more & more people are online and /or have digital cameras. Remember to take single item against contrasting background to make it clear to see, for user. The best image format is .jpg; need to keep file size down.	Ordinary photos need to be scanned in. Can be imported into any software that handles graphics, usually in .jpg format. Might want to crop / edit etc. using a graphics viewer / editing software e.g. *IrfanView* (free from internet) or *Paint* (free with Windows).	Crop or edit images with www.irfanview.com Or photoshop software or similar.
Coloured pictures (on paper)	Eg. Cut from magazines, mail-order catalogues etc. Use postcards, cuttings from tourist leaflets etc. for outings and trips.	Often better quality and clearer than self-taken photos (but not personalised).	Nice way to involve the service-user in choosing their own pictures, can be cut out, stuck into diaries, albums Photo Albums etc.	Not useful digitally – would need to be 'scanned in' then treated as any graphics file (see above).	
Images taken from the Internet *(if your local authority network does not block this)*		Like photos in general, can be more specific than symbols. Not always good quality.	Useful for being very specific, eg. to represent TV, cinema etc. Watch out for copyright issues – do not reproduce or sell, though may be OK to use with individual learners.	Import into any software that handles graphics, to edit or crop etc., as above.	Download images from www.google.co.uk (images) www.images.google.co.uk See CALL Information Sheet 'Pictures, Clip Art and other stuff for Kids'
Clip Art	You can buy big (usually too big and unwieldy!) or small more specialized sets, E.g. • Flash! Pro 2 (photos) • Picture This...Pro • Let's Sign and Write (graphics for signing) • ORT and Wellington Square clip art (to go with reading schemes)	Like any photos (see above) clip art in photo form will be highly specific (although unlike your own photos, NOT personalized). Graphic clip art can sometimes tend to be a bit 'cartoony' so not always appropriate or meaningful (see below). There is even a collection of video clips (Animals and Transport CDs, £29 each) available from Inclusive Technology Ltd, see 'Video Bank' on their website.	Handy to have a collection available, but not standardised, so cannot transfer from / to different situations. Pages using a lot of random clip art from different sources can look over-'busy' and 'bitty'.	Clip Art is widely available free on the Internet and commercially (and in Microsoft Word, if installed). Commercial sets are generally not useful unless they have a searchable index and visual preview facility. Specialised sets for use with Special Needs are recommended, (see 'Examples' box, left).	www.free-clipart-pictures.net/ or search in Google for 'free clip art'. www.inclusive.co.uk http://office.microsoft.com/clipart/ for Word clip art www.Cricksoft.com/uk for ORT & Wellington Square sets as Clicker add-on
Cartoon style pictures		May seem appealing to staff, but very often difficult to process, not meaningful to child or appropriate to situation. Can be a bit 'childish'.	As above, not widely used, not standardised, so cannot transfer from / to different situations and be meaningful to all.	From Clip art. Internet image search etc.	Search in Google Images for name of cartoon character or 'XXX cartoon'

Sally.Millar@ed.ac.uk

This is a continuous 'work in progress' as things keep changing! Apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions - please let me know if there is anything you think should be changed or added
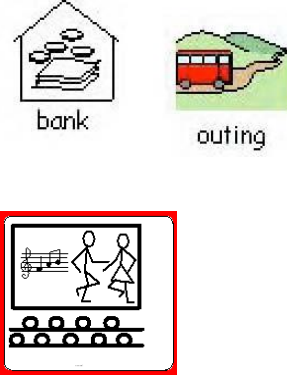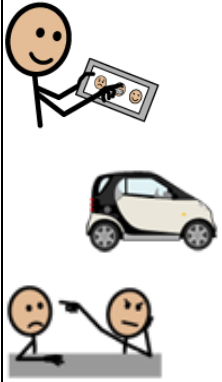
Name of Pics/Symbols	Examples	Type / Distinguishing Features	Use & comments	Associated Software	Contact Info
Product Logos	McDonalds, Marks and Spencer, Coca Cola etc.	These are not 'transparent' or 'guessable' pictures/ symbols – you either know what they represent or you don't (and it's hard to predict which service users will know which).	Some of these are very familiar to everybody; others may have particular significance for a specific individual. If used, must be tailored to individual's experience and interests – these are not.	Might need a graphics program like Irfanview or Photoshop to crop images.	Cut from materials from the stores or products themselves, or search Internet in Google images.
Hand-drawn pictures	Black and white line drawings, usually.	Easy, quick and always available! Not always good quality but can be recognizable and 'do the job' temporarily at least, if closely linked to context and done in front of service-user in 'real time'.	Probably not widely used – can be highly specific to situation and powerful tool. However, not standardized, not easily replicable.	If you wanted to make life really complicated, could be scanned in and saved / imported as graphics, drawn on tablet computer screen and saved etc.....nah....!	

Picture / Symbol Sets (clip art collections with limited or specialised vocabulary for communication, disability, or for making information accessible to non/weak readers)

Mainly for Children

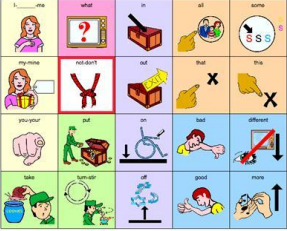|					
Ispeek Visual Communication		Images come on CDs - Ispeek at Home and Ispeek at School. Over 1300 coloured images per CD (£23 ex VAT per CD), organized into categories. Categories and images geared primarily to ASD e.g. facial expressions / emotions, sounds that cause sensitivity / distress. There are also 'Freebies' for download, e.g. schedules, 'Boy Passport', 'Girl Passport', 'getting dressed' etc.	Designed by a parent / educator and designed for use by children with autistic spectrum disorder. Company also sells low-tech communication materials e.g. communication books, and keyring communicators.	Image sets on CD Ispeek - images (metafiles or .jpgs) can be imported like any clip art or other graphics into whatever software you want to use. Available online through Jessica Kingsley Publishers.	www.jkp.com/ http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book/9781843105107/ http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book/9781843105114 www.ispeek.co.uk/
Pics for PECS		Approximately 2,400 brightly coloured and clear images in .jpg format Vocabulary selection and type of image are designed mainly for children / ASD.	Some people think if you are doing PECS you have to use these images – not true – you can use any images or symbols. Equally these pictures could be used for client groups and purposes other than PECS schedules, PECS books etc.	Pics for PECS 2010 Image set comes on a CD £33.49. If bought with 'Card Creator' software (a bit like BoardMaker?) the total is £57.40 Again, the images can be imported and used in any software.	www.pecs.org.uk/

Sally.Millar@ed.ac.uk

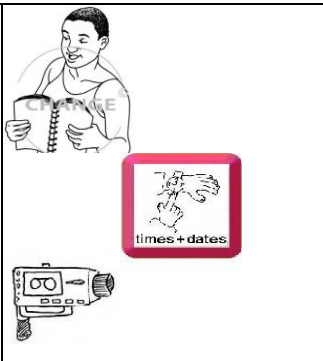| Name of Pics/Symbols	Examples	Type / Distinguishing Features	Use & comments	Associated Software	Contact Info
Picture This Pro		Picture This Pro contains over 5,000 photos, designed for creating schedules, lotto boards, games, reading activities, worksheets etc. The photos are categorized, e.g. : actions, animals, bathroom, bedroom, body, buildings, clothing, colours, electronics, emotions, food, furniture, holidays, household, kitchen, line art, music, nature, opposites, people, places, prepositions, rooms, sequences, shapes, sports, tools, toys, travel, vehicles.	These photos are all very clear, on a white background. Some are great while others are strangely old-fashioned or very 'middle class America'. The Picture This Standard Edition is cheaper with a smaller picture collection - .maybe useful for parent with one child with limited requirements.	Costs £55 ex VAT. The CD with the photos on also contains an easy-to-use program that allows you to format photos into various size flashcards with or without text, with coloured borders etc. Search for the images you want either by name or by sounds within a word. The software in the Standard edition is less fully featured and less flexible.	Available from Inclusive Technology Ltd. www.inclusive.co.uk More details and Standard Edition from www.silverliningmm.com
Flash Pro		The Flash! Pro 2 CD has a collection of over 8,500 colour photo flashcards that you can select, preview and print from your computer, designed as materials to stimulate speech and language. Photos are arranged into 65 categories, including Actions, Animals, Emotions, Body Parts, Food, Clothing, Flags, Street Signs, Locations, People, Furniture, Vehicles, Colours.	Primarily aimed for use in education, to make simple flashcard materials that can otherwise be costly. Images mainly geared towards Early Years level.	Costs £55 ex VAT Designed for users with no computer experience and has no complex setup or installation. As well as the built-in flash-card creation software, all the images can also be used in other software, such as PowerPoint, SwitchIt! Maker, ChooseIt! Maker etc.	Available from Inclusive Technology Ltd. www.inclusive.co.uk
Mulberry Symbol Set (also known as Straight Street Symbols)		Still seems to be in development. (Version 1.8 at January 2009). Vocabulary is still relatively small at c. 1500 pictures. Apparently another 1000 in development. Simple coloured images, in .wmf format, are very clear and nicely up to date and culturally accurate (e.g. British style 'barbecue').	This is an interesting project as the developers of the Mulberry Symbol set have committed to developing and providing symbols free of charge, through the Oatsoft network. Symbols are reportedly monitored by professionals. To access, you search by name or category. Or you can browse through the symbols alphabetically.	You can view the symbols online and have to register and log in to download symbols. Image files can then be used in any software e.g. Clicker, PowerPoint, Word etc.	more info from http://www.oatsoft.org/Software/straight-street-symbol-set symbols at http://straight-street.com/

Sally.Millar@ed.ac.uk
This is a continuous 'work in progress' as things keep changing! Apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions - please let me know if there is anything you think should be changed or added

Name of Pics/Symbols	Examples	Type / Distinguishing Features	Use & comments	Associated Software	Contact Info
Unlimiter 9 formats symbol system		This is a newcomer, developed in Taiwan. 9 different symbol formats: 1. 3D coloured and animated symbols (Ping Boy - an expressive-looking androgynous ping pong ball-like figure), 2, 3, Simple line drawings (a 2D Ping Boy type cartoon character) – B& W or colour, 2. Animated colour line drawings, 5,6 Realistic illustrations - B& W or colour, 7. Full-color photographs, 8, 9 Background settings - B&W or colour. Being able to toggle between several different symbol formats is also quite interesting.	Eventually will be available for real time use over the internet (by subscription) but for now you buy a CD ROM It is advertised as a huge vocabulary (20,000+) but actually the total is composed of different versions of the same meaning, so it's really only about 5,000. Becoming more popular in Australia and west coast USA. Unlikely for use in the UK for now anyway, but interesting as it's new to see 3D and animated symbols. The flexibility of	Ping Boy 3D Language Learning software Picture Master Board Designer (like a simple version of BoardMaker) You can combine the symbols onto a board with 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9 or 12 cells. Picture Master Language Software (animated, speech output) Picture Write (Like Writing with symbols)	http://en.unlimiter.com.tw/html/index.htm possibly available in UK from http://www.pri-liberator.com/ - not clear - contact supplier to investigate US http://www.picturemastersoftware.com/
Video Bank		2 CDs: one on an Animals theme, one of Transport, Each CD has some JPEG image files but mainly comprising a collection of video clips. The Animals CD has over 40 MPG movie files in categories including birds, wild animals, fish, insects, pets and farm animals, reptile and the zoo. The Transport CD has over 40 movies about aeroplanes, boats, trains, play vehicles, working vehicles and more.	Again, a bit out of the ordinary, but these days it seems that 'video is the new picture'. Useful for creating motivating personalised learning materials.	Each CD costs £29 ex VAT Video clips ideal for use in software like PowerPoint, Clicker, SwitchIt Maker etc. also could be loaded into an iPod or other handheld	Available from Inclusive Technology Ltd. www.inclusive.co.uk

Sally.Millar@ed.ac.uk
This is a continuous 'work in progress' as things keep changing! Apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions - please let me know if there is anything you think should be changed or added

Symbol Systems / Symbol Languages Bigger, wider vocabularies, some grammatical elements, wider range of applications
Designed to be combined together into symbol phrases and sentences, not just used as 'prompts' or 'labels'

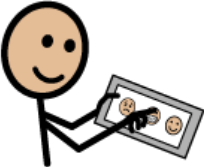|				
Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) (often referred to as 'BoardMaker Symbols')		Symbols are pictorial. Basic Vocabulary of 3000+ and now several 'Addendum' packs with about 2000 more symbols bring vocabulary up to 6,000+ (also specialized vocabularies, e.g. Animations and Communicating about Sexuality) Available in both colour and black and white, and 'transparent' so can go in outline on a colour-coded background. Originally American which sometimes shows and may annoy occasionally, but also supplemented by specialist symbols for other cultures, e.g. Jewish. In BoardMaker, searchable database that can be added to, otherwise you can find symbols arranged in alphabetical order. BoardMaker and Communicate in Print are just for making materials, BoardMaker Plus! and SDP and SymWriter are interactive and can be accessed by user as communication aid.	Widely used across Scotland in schools and adult communities – the most commonly used symbols in education and as general 'visual environment'. Advantage of this is that staff tend to be familiar and supported with this system. Note that if children leave school and move on to adult placements, they need to have continuity of their PCS symbol system – NOT to be taken off and stuck on to a new / different system.	The flagship software is the BoardMaker range. Standard BoardMaker is for paper based materials only. Latest version is BoardMaker V6 (also Addendum packs of extra symbols, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008) or if you buy the latest version, it's already updated to 2004 and you just need to buy 2006 and 2008. BoardMaker Plus! and Speaking Dynamically Pro), You can also buy PCS symbols as a library for Widgit Communicate software, or as a 'stand-alone' CD of Metafiles to import into software of your choice (BoardMaker symbols will not insert into Clicker). Also a set of 'animated' PCS. There are also many BoardMaker 'add-on' resources available E.g. Schedule It! Sequence It and 'ready-made symbol topic boards & games etc. e.g. Print N'Play, Print N'Eat (Menus), Print N'Learn units.	www.mayerjohnson.com For the UK http://www.widgit.com/products/boardmaker/index.htm www.inclusive.co.uk www.donjohnston.co.uk (products, access) www.callcentrescotland.org.uk (resources, BoardMaker resources) www.adaptedlearning.com
Symbols for Makaton		Symbols designed to accompany the Makaton manual signing programme. Thick black & white line drawings originally based on Rebus, so pretty similar to Widgit symbols. Vocabulary is limited but MVDP continue to create new symbols, to match vocabulary requirements of National Curriculum, and personal e.g. bereavement, sex ed. Core symbols and 7 topic linked symbol resource CD packs (signs and symbols) available.	Just because you use Makaton signing it does not mean you must use Makaton symbols – you can combine Makaton signing with other symbol systems. Makaton symbols tend to have been overtaken by Widgit Symbols and PCS these days?	Symbol databases are available on CD (quite dear per CD) but need other software to run them. Can be used with your software of choice and / or installed as a 'symbol library' in Widgit's Communicate range. Most popular starter is bundle £155 of core, transport & animals, & National Curriculum.	www.makaton.org www.widgit.co.uk

Sally.Millar@ed.ac.uk
This is a continuous 'work in progress' as things keep changing! Apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions - please let me know if there is anything you think should be changed or added

Name of Pics/Symbols	Examples	Type / Distinguishing Features	Use & comments	Associated Software	Contact Info
Widgit Symbols Colour Symbols Black and White Symbols Visual Impairment (VI) Symbol collection		The whole Widgit Rebus and Widigt Literacy symbol system has been revised recently to add useful vocabulary, ensure consistency and add new vocabulary and some basic grammar markers. Now called Widgit Symbols, there are around 8,000+ symbols available Symbols always used to be black and white only, but now available in colour too. A sub set of symbols is available in simplified / particularly clear a 'Visual Impairment' version. Symbols are very clear and look neat and easy to process on a page, as they are all of a standardized size. The vocabulary is extremely comprehensive (even to the extent of 5 different skin choice colours, for people symbols!). Special packs are available eg. Sexuality symbols, Diabetes symbols, Eden Project etc. Nice because they are rooted in UK culture.	Very widely used across England and Wales, becoming more common in Scotland especially as new symbols and new software becomes better known. Designed primarily to help make information accessible and to develop literacy and 'writing' (rather than as a communication aid). Used by all ages but perhaps more by slightly older students and adults. Lots of Add-ons available for sale, and also many free downloadable resources available and news of symbol projects on the excellent and extensive web sites. New developments such as making email and web sites symbol supported.	• Writing with Symbols 2000 (now replaced by the new Communicate SymWriter) • Communicate in Print • Communicate Webwide • Communicate by Choice Widgit software comes with all the Widgit symbols built-in and will accept other images and symbol libraries (e.g. PCS, Makaton, Bliss). WWS and SymWriter are interactive and switch-accessible so can be used directly by service users. Third party software such as The Grid 2 from Sensory Software is licenced to ship with Widgit symbols built in.	www.widgit.co.uk www.symbolworld.org www.sensorysoftware.com/resources/gridsets/adv.html www.askability.org.uk/
SymbolStix		About 4,000 + vocabulary items - a mixture of coloured images and coloured 'stickman' type symbols that look very similar to PCS but a bit more modern in some respects, and quite fresh, expressive and 'vibrant'. Agreeable symbols, but some items are rather heavily 'American' sadly – this spoils them a bit for UK use.	Used by News 4 U, and now with communication aids. Maybe preferred by some commercial developers as avoids paying high royalties for PCS symbols.	You can buy Symbol Stix as a set inTobii SymbolMate (a bit like BoardMaker) or subscribe and use SymboStixOnline. Symbol Stix are used in Proloquo2Go, Sensory Software in The Grid 2, AMDI overlay maker, Mind Express and more.	http://symbolstix.com/

Sally.Millar@ed.ac.uk
This is a continuous 'work in progress' as things keep changing! Apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions - please let me know if there is anything you think should be changed or added

Name of Pics/Symbols	Examples	Type / Distinguishing Features	Use & comments	Associated Software	Contact Info
Bliss Symbols	house book library	Huge vocabulary, (c4000) including quite sophisticated and abstract meanings, plus potential to use strategies and 'combine' symbols to make new meanings. Black and white only (may use colour-coded background). Many symbols are not 'transparent' or guessable though there are simple rules that help you decode symbol shapes. Can be easily hand-drawn, which is convenient.	Widely used in Scandinavia and elsewhere but in UK these days used only by some adults, not children. Pity, as it's a powerful system that can give excellent communication to more cognitively able users Felt to be a bit too abstract for some users, and might be harder for staff especially in mainstream schools and community settings, who might need special training. Hopefully may come back into fashion one day soon, perhaps when software situation improves.	WinBliss Tobii Symbolmate and Communicator Mind Express Symbols for Windows (SfW) suite SfW Communicator & Paper Chart Maker Both come with Bliss pre-loaded but are designed primarily as communication aids not just for making materials. Otherwise, can cut and paste from BlissWord Dictionary. Bliss libraries available for BoardMaker, for Sensory Software's The Grid 2, and soon for the Widgit Communicate range, this will make Bliss more usable.	www.blissymbols.co.uk/ www.blisswords.co.uk/ www.blissymbolics.org/ www.sensorysoftware.com For communication aids that provide a Bliss interface: www.techcess.co.uk (communication software, MindExpress).
Pixons **The Pixon Project Kit: a language curriculum**		The Pixon Project is a new development by Gail Van Tatenhove and backed by other AAC specialists including Bruce Baker, inventor of Minspeak. The Pixon Picture Set blends Minspeak® icons with drawing conventions used in other pictures sets (such as PCS Over 1800 Pixons are available. Pixons™ are designed to act as a bridge, or 'stepping stones' between basic single meaning pictures / picture symbols and the key icons from Minspeak Application Programs. The idea is that if you start a child off with Pixons™ as his/her basic communication vocabulary, he/she will already be familiar with the basic pictures that are used on the device, when he/she is ready to have a Minspeak-based communication aid.	This is an interesting project to provide a programme for developing language and laying the foundations for VOCA use, by introducing core vocabulary systematically through first activity based low tech boards and then gradually into a high tech voice output device, Minspeak application program. Cynically, it is also a way to promote use of Prentk Romich's Minspeak devices.	Symbols are provided in both in BMP and BoardMaker Format,. This is interesting, as as few symbol sets other than PCS (and now Widgit) are made available in BoardMaker format, but this is very useful, as so many people are familiar and comfortable with that software. Not sure yet whether the Pixon kit is available in UK but can be bought online $150 The kit is composed of a book (language curriculum) various low tech manual and eye pointing communication boards and board templates, library of symbol files, educational and environment labeling materials.	http://www.aacinstitute.org/Resources/ProductsandServices/Pixons/index.html

This is a continuous 'work in progress' as things keep changing! Apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions - please let me know if there is anything you think should be changed or added

Name of Pics/Symbols	Examples	Type / Distinguishing Features	Use & comments	Associated Software	Contact Info
Mainly for Adults with Learning Difficulties and for Accessibility / Inclusion related Uses					
CHANGE Picture Bank & CHANGE Health Picture Bank		4 picture bank CDs: General pictures; Health Pictures; You and Your Baby / Little Child Approx 400 - 500 images on each CD, All are black and white line drawing style and many cover whole 'scenarios' - some quite abstract. Organised in categories, alphabetically (e.g. E – Epilepsy – 4 images). Images are contemporary and with a good ethnic spread, but some are a bit complicated and may be hard to process (see 'video camera', left).	All pictures show adults, some elderly. Some are perhaps so specific as to be difficult to use if they are not exactly right for your service user (e.g. 'happy' is available only as a short-haired oriental woman or a young man only). Possible lack of consistency of style across the set, some simpler / more detailed than others.	CD £120 each (complicated pricing structure - different prices for different purchasers – dearer for big organizations, less for families) You buy extra pictures online one by one, once you've bought the basic set. Picture sets are designed by group working with adults with complex disabilities.	www.changepeople.co.uk/
Valuing People Clip Art collection 2009		A memory stick with c.2,000 specially created graphic images (but lots of duplicates as there are colour & black and white versions of each picture) and a few more are added each month (you have to be a yearly subscriber (£30) to get the new updates). The company (consultant in self advocacy, making information accessible etc.) will draw you a whole new set (or individual images) if you can't find what you need (prices start at £30).	There are a variety of styles, ranging from very concrete (almost a bit old-fashioned) to quite cartoony and abstract which can be a bit inconsistent, but they have a good stab at some abstract concepts. No way of looking up the word/concept that you want, you have to look through all categories and then all the pictures in each	At £105 per CD (again, less for self-advocacy groups), this seems better value than some others Free to reproduce but you are asked to credit the source if you are publishing materials using these images.	www.inspiredservices.org.uk/
Photosymbols 3 **Safe and Sound**		A memory stick with approximately 3,000 photos (actually more like 1,200 when I counted) arranged in 32+ themes, with a new search facility that is useful. Designed to create easy read accessible information Also a specialised pack of 200 images on the vocabulary of keeping safe, bullying, hate crime and abuse Photos models are real people with disabilities.	Some people like these, but they seem very expensive when there are so many other cheaper alternatives. Some pictures are **so** specific as to be difficult to use and there are not enough duplicates (e.g. elderly woman walking, young black man in wheelchair, but no elderly black man walking etc.)	£470 for individual – again complicated pricing structures to cover purchase by whole local authorities etc. £141 for Keeping Safe set. Royalty–free so can be reproduced as much as desired.	www.photosymbols.com/index.jsp/

Sally.Millar@ed.ac.uk

This is a continuous 'work in progress' as things keep changing! Apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions - please let me know if there is anything you think should be changed or added

Name of Pics/Symbols	Examples	Type / Distinguishing Features	Use & comments	Associated Software	Contact Info
Say It Works Picture Library		The Say It Works Picture Library is an extensive coloured picture bank on adult related topics, including disability images, drug pictures, alcohol pictures, equality and diversity images, mental health pictures, images of routines, supported living, leisure images and pictures relevant to person centred planning and more. Useful to make information more accessible.	These are composite pictures of scenarios, by and large, rather than representations of single meanings. Not sure how well this works as many of the topics are simply too complex to pictorialise effectively, but they would certainly help to support understanding of a written or audio presented text.	Available on CD Rom (£299 for the full set of 937 images) or for download picture by picture at £4.95 per picture (reduces as you buy more, e.g. £50 for 25 images).	http://www.sayitworks.co.uk/
Bonnington Symbol System		Approximately 600 Black and White symbols (with some red e.g. for medical cross, and crossing out e.g. No smoking). Style of symbols is in some cases virtually identical to PCS, Makaton, Rebus, (see below), and in other cases to 'international airport signs' style in line with British Standard Symbols (cf Sign Design guide, JMU Access Partnership, RNIB) Vocabulary is geared to 'signage' and accessibility and inclusion in the community rather than covering a range of meanings and functions of language.	Used in Edinburgh and Lothians (adult resource centres FE colleges) but not much elsewhere? Symbols are not childish. Developed originally for use by adults with learning difficulties.	No longer available through City of Edinburgh Social Work but can be supplied (with new symbols designed on demand) through. http://www.tomorraccessibility.co.uk/	www.modemoperandi.co.uk/symbols/

Sally.Millar@ed.ac.uk

This is a continuous 'work in progress' as things keep changing! Apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions - please let me know if there is anything you think should be changed or added

Specialized symbol sets/systems and Software to help you organize symbols into grids and boards, symbolise the web etc.

Just2Easy Symbols		J2E is an online word-processor. Through collaboration with Widgit means you can symbolize words by just hovering muse over the word.	Interesting innovation Only Widgit symbols appear.	You have to subscribe to J2E to get the symbol function. www.j2e.com
SymbolStix		As above: About 4,000 + vocabulary items - a mixture of coloured images and coloured 'stickman' type symbols.	Maybe preferred by some commercial developers as avoids paying high royalties for PCS symbols.	Symbol Stix are used by developers in an increasing number of communication aids, e.g. Proloquo2Go, Sensory Software in The Grid 2, AMDI overlay maker, Mind Express and more. http://symbolstix.com/
Minspeak Symbols (or Minsymbols)		Coloured multi-meaning icons used with specific technology & software, no low tech version. There are symbols used only in LLL and others used in UNITY.	Used in Minspeak devices only (the communication aids sold by Prentke Romich International (PRI).	ONLY available in conjunction with PRI VOCAS and MAPs, eg. SpringBoard, Vanguard, Vantage, Pathfinder, Eco-14 sold in the UK by PRI-Liberator Ltd. www.pri-liberator.com/
Pixon		Brand new symbol set designed to be used on Minspeak communication aids usually in conjunction with mulitmeaning icons (see above). Approx 400 core meanings and 1000+ extended meanings.	As above More specific and more graphic than multi-meaning icons - useful for younger children or more learning disabled users.	As above. www.pri-liberator.com/
DynaSyms		Coloured multi-meaning icons, only used in combination with specific technology, (low tech version (PicSyms) used to exist but not used in UK).	Used by some DynaVox (V, V Max, DV4, MT4, M3) users).	Users can choose DynaSyms or PCS pre-loaded in DynaVox VOCA products. In the UK, DynaSyms are usually only used to fill in gaps where there are no PCS symbols). www.dynavox.co.uk
PogoBoards		A new piece of software that allows you to design symbol boards Paying version but also FREE 'Light' version available through Ablenet.	Unlikely to be used in UK just because there are so many better known and established options.	AbleNet Symbol Library overlay and Device Templates. www.pogoboards.com http://www.ablenetinc.com/PogoBoards/PogoBoardsFreeLightVersion/tabid/493/Default.aspx
Tobii SymbolMate		A Scandinavian product. Software like BoardMaker to make paper based communication, educational and curricular resources. Ships with SymbolStix (15,000 + images) but will support Widgit, Bliss, Pictogram and PCS symbols. Provides overlay templates etc.	Very new, difficult to tell how it will take off, or not. Likely to be linked with Toibii and C-Eye communication aid products, mainly.	Compatible with the Tobii communication aids and the Tobii Communicator software. http://www.tobii.com/assistive_technology/products/symbolmate.aspx

Sally.Millar@ed.ac.uk
This is a continuous 'work in progress' as things keep changing! Apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions - please let me know if there is anything you think should be changed or added