

# Personalised Fuzzy Felt



A resource that can be used by all students to....

- Create motivating pictures
- Create and share stories
- Support communication and early literacy

This booklet explains how to make it, how to use it and gives you some resources to get you started.

# Personalised Fuzzy Felt

Personalised Fuzzy Felt is a motivating, cheap to make, low tech, easy to use resource that lets students who are not able to draw using pens and paper create great pictures and make up their own stories.



*'Grandma and me had ice cream together'*

I am an ORRS teacher and have started making up these little kits for all the students I support and they work so well. I am yet to meet a student who doesn't love using them. They are based on the old style fuzzy felt idea but are made motivating by being personalised for each student and their interests and knowledge base.

Each kit contains lots of cut outs of people and favourite items and a carpet square or piece of felt board to attach them to.



Example of what the figures look like when ready to use

### You need...

Lots of body cut outs in different positions. I use Boardmaker and have attached some templates for you to use or just hand draw them.

Just add head shots of the student, their friends and family to each of the bodies. You can do this on the computer or by hand by just printing off both and gluing heads to bodies. You can colour in the outfits after printing, which makes it even cheaper to make.

I then add lots of other things that are motivating to that student. I often use Google Images for this. E.g. favourite games and toys, food items, places they go etc.

Laminate everything, cut out and attach a small piece of Velcro to the back of each item. Store all items in a folder or small container. Find a cheap or free carpet square or piece of felt board.

The student is then ready to make their picture. You model how to first, by creating your own story using the kit and thinking aloud as you do it. Then hand over to the student to create their first masterpiece!

Once the picture is complete, put the carpet square in the photo copier so you have a copy to keep and stick into the student's book. I often photocopy one for the student to take home to share with family and nearly always also use it as the basis for written work. (Works great with Clicker grids which match what is in the kit. This means students can write about their picture once they have drawn it. Once you have made a matching clicker grid set, you can use it over and over to create new stories each time).

My students love looking back through their book at all the different pictures and stories they have made. The kits were time consuming to make but are still a favourite and used all the time a year later so well worth it.

### **Tips...**

- Leave small laminated edges around each item as you cut out. This helps stop it from coming apart with lots of use.
- Save a copy of everything you have created when it is ready to print. That way it is easy to replace anything that get lost.

### **Access...**

All students can make pictures this way, even if they have more complex physical issues. If they are not able to select what to put on the carpet square using their own hands, attach items to an E tran board so students can select what to draw using eye pointing or use partner assisted scanning. This is actually a really motivating way to practice scanning skills.

Some examples of fantastic stories and pictures by some Christchurch artists and authors....



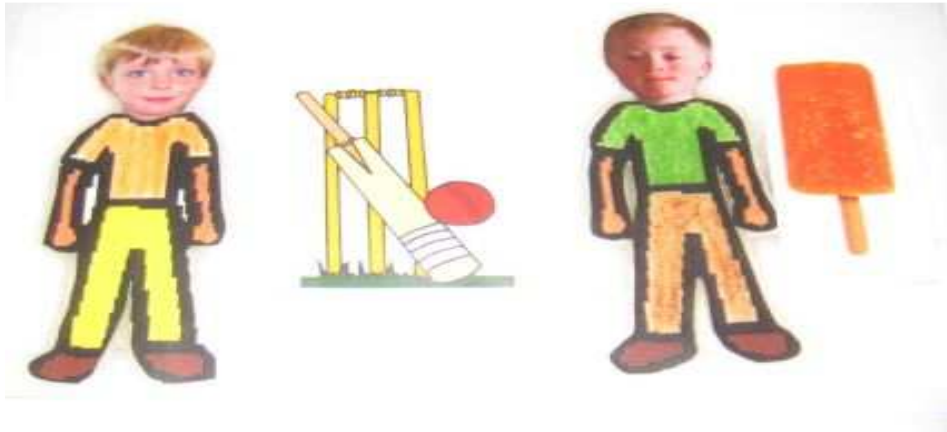
*Sam and Joe were using a hammer and a toolbox while Jack was eating chocolate and playing the drums*

By Jack Age 5



*Neesha and Kyle and Caleb went by taxi to get pizza and burgers*

By Caleb Age 9



*Luke was playing cricket and Jack was having an ice block*

By Jack Age 5

