A colorful illustration of a boy and a girl in a field of purple lavender. The boy, on the left, has short brown hair and is wearing a red and white striped long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. He has his arms outstretched. The girl, on the right, has long, curly blonde hair and is wearing a multi-colored striped dress and red boots with white polka dots. She has her hands clasped in front of her. The field is filled with purple lavender flowers. In the background, there are several trees with green leaves. A small bird is perched on a branch of a tree on the left. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

# Alex and Rosie's Adventures in Surrey

Stories for children with autism  
David Blakesley and Tharada Blakesley

# Alex and Rosie's Adventures in Surrey

Stories by David Blakesley

Illustrations by Tharada Blakesley



# Introduction

Autism and Nature is a non-profit organisation dedicated to enriching the lives of children on the autism spectrum, by helping to engage them with the countryside and nature. 'Alex and Rosie's Adventures in Surrey' has been written to complement our guide 'Visiting the Surrey countryside: a guide for parents and teachers of children with autism'. The book tells the story of two children, Alex and Rosie, who visit many of the natural places described in our guide. We hope that it will appeal to younger children with autism and children with speech and language difficulties, and encourage their interest in the countryside and nature. For more information visit the Autism and Nature website ([www.autismandnature.org.uk](http://www.autismandnature.org.uk)).

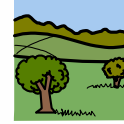
This book has been generously funded by the Nineveh Charitable Trust; the Orchid Environmental Trust Fund (c/o the Community Foundation for Surrey); the National Trust; and Martin Ferber and Mary Haldin (Prestonbury, Hardacre Rocks). We would especially like to thank Surrey Wildlife Trust and the National Autistic Society Surrey Branch for their help in distributing this book. We would also like to thank Cate Rae and Guillaume Duclaud-Williams (Widgit Software) for their valuable advice and help with symbolising the text. Finally, we would like to thank Barbara Creed for the layout of the book.



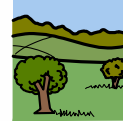




Hello  
My name is Alex



Alex and Rosie enjoy visiting the countryside.



This is a story about their favourite places.



Hello  
My name is Rosie



# Chobham Common



Alex



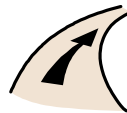
and Rosie



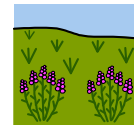
walked



quietly



across



Chobham Common.



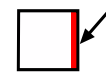
They found



a grass snake



basking



on the side

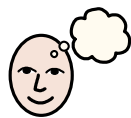


of the path.





Alex



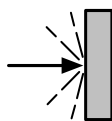
thought



he heard



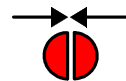
someone



tapping



stones



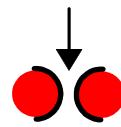
together.



It was a stonechat,



calling

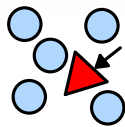
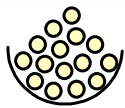
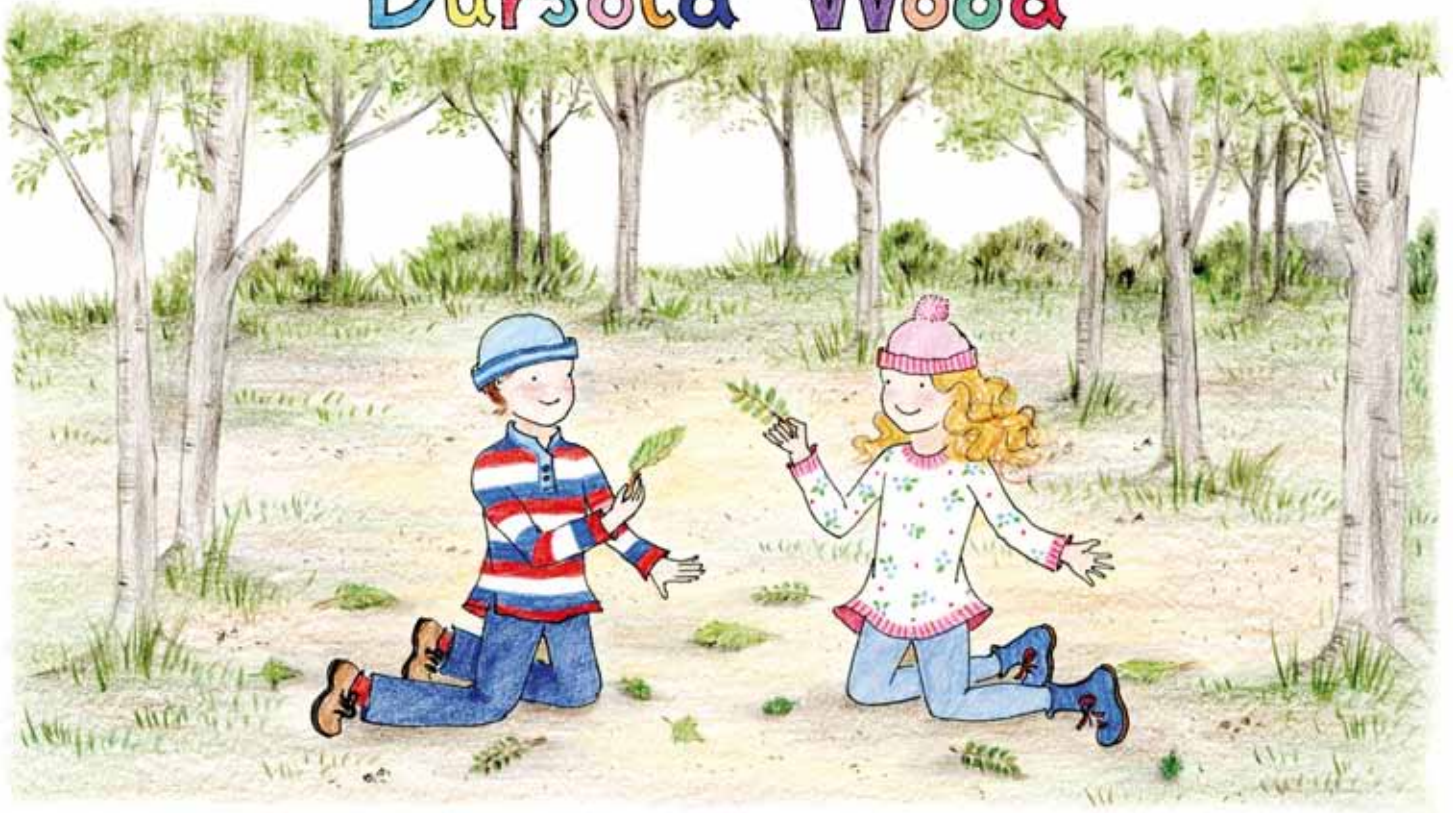


from a nearby



bush.

# Durfold Wood



There are many different types of trees in Durfold Wood.



Alex



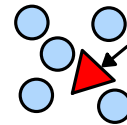
and Rosie



found



leaves



with different

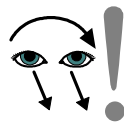


shapes.





"Let's make leaf crowns" said Alex.



Alex and Rosie carefully placed leaves in their hats.



# Claremont Garden



Alex



and Rosie



sat



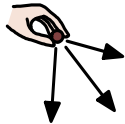
on a bench



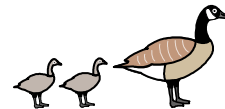
by the lake.



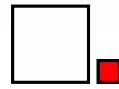
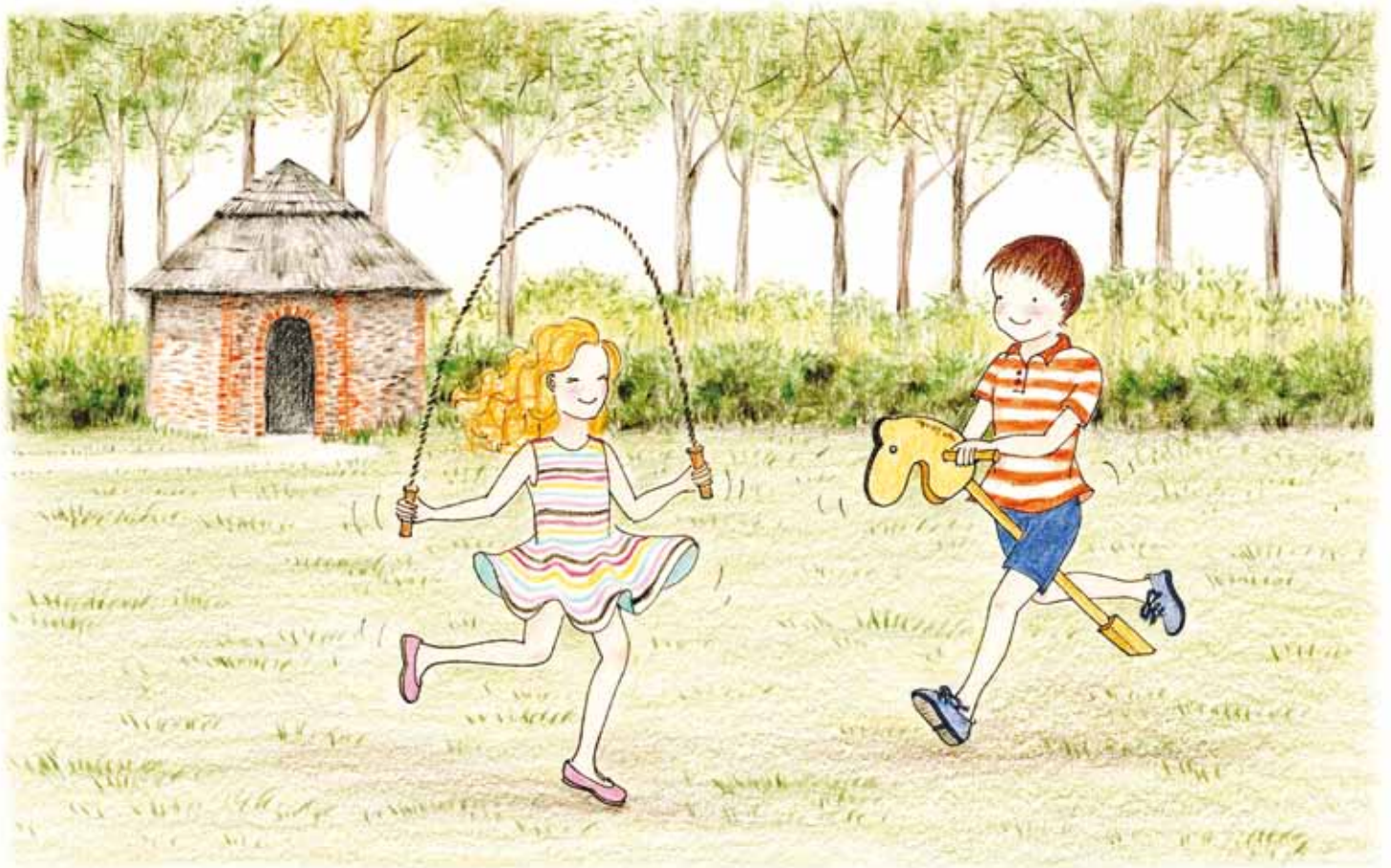
They enjoyed



feeding grain



to a family of geese.



Later, they walked to the small play cottage.



Alex



rode a hobby horse,



Rosie



played



with a skipping rope.



# RHS Garden Wisley



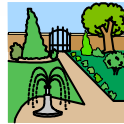
Alex



and Rosie



visited



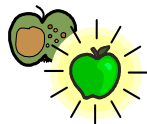
Wisley Garden



in the autumn.



In the orchard, ripe apples



smelt



lovely.







Later they walked through the herb garden.



Rosie liked the smell of mint, Alex preferred lavender.

# Bookham Commons



Alex



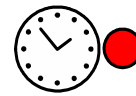
and Rosie



visited



Bookham Commons



after



it rained.



They enjoyed



jumping

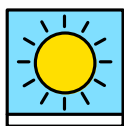


in the puddles

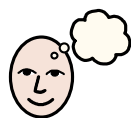


in their wellies!





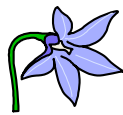
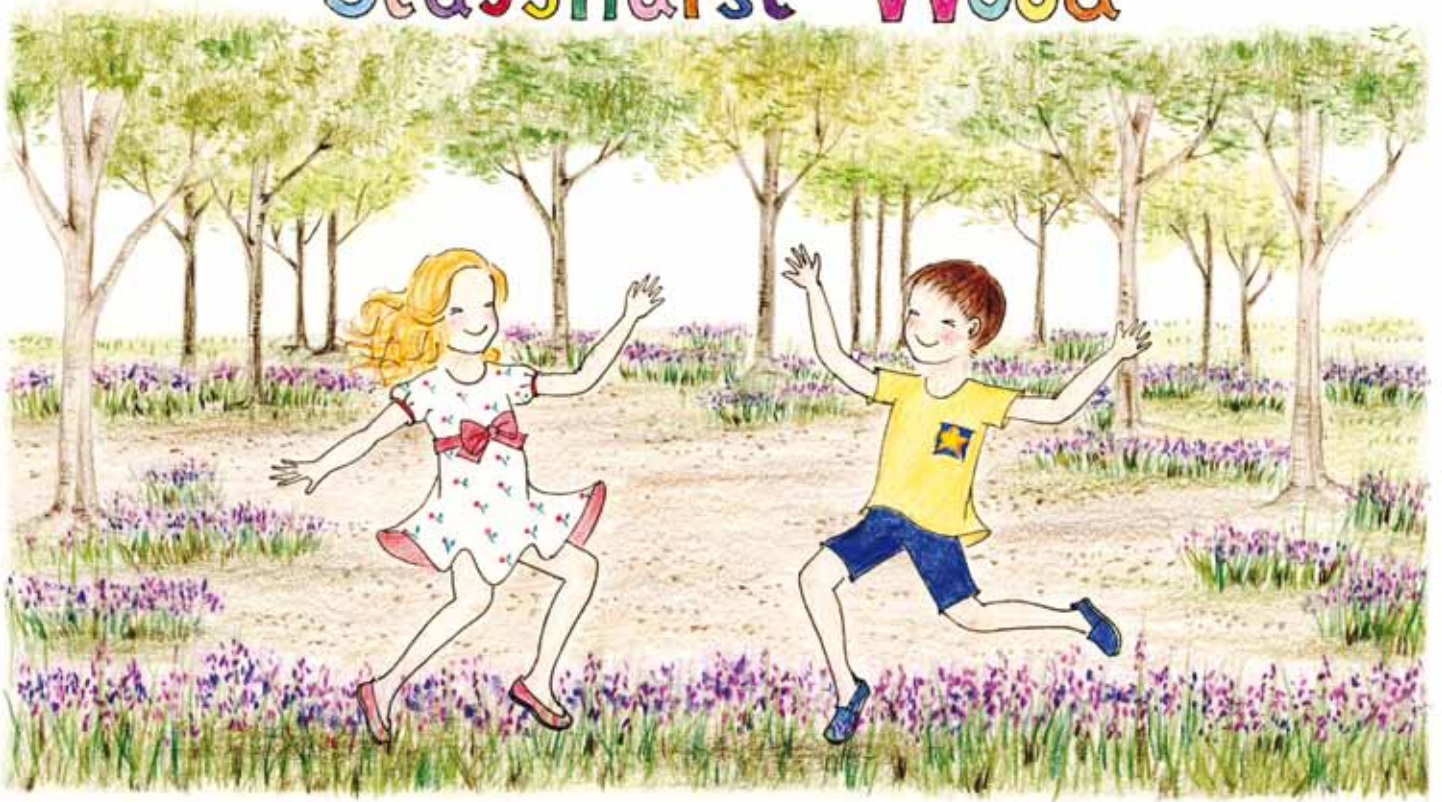
Although it was daytime, they heard a nightingale singing.



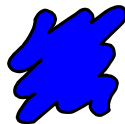
Alex and Rosie thought that the bird's song was lovely.



# Staffhurst Wood



In May, bluebells were flowering in Staffhurst Wood.



Alex was happy, because blue is his favourite colour.



Rosie



found



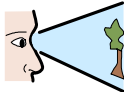
some tadpoles



in the pond.



Alex



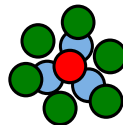
saw



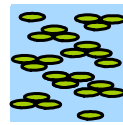
a frog



hiding



amongst



the duckweed.



# Nutfield Marshes



Alex



and Rosie



visited



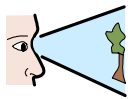
Nutfield Marshes



in the spring.



Rosie



saw



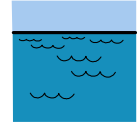
sand martins



catching



insects



over the water.



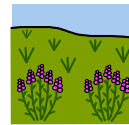


Alex was more interested in the ducks.



Tufted ducks and shovelers are his favourites.

# Farnham Heath

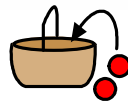


In August, heather was flowering on Farnham Heath.



Rosie was happy because pink is her favourite colour.





Alex wanted to collect sweet chestnuts.



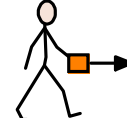
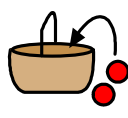
He was careful because the fruits are very spiny.



# Devil's Punch Bowl



Alex and Rosie visited the Devil's Punch Bowl.



They wanted to collect natural things to take to school.



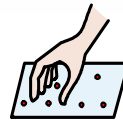
Rosie



found



a feather



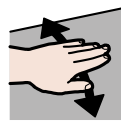
and picked up



some acorns.



Alex



made



a bark rubbing.



# Thursley Common



Alex



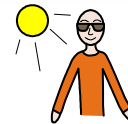
and Rosie



explored



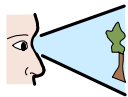
Thursley



on a warm



summer's day.



They saw



lizards



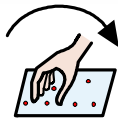
basking



on the boardwalk.



Alex



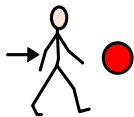
tried



to photograph



the lizards.



He approached



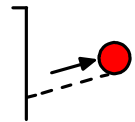
very



quietly,



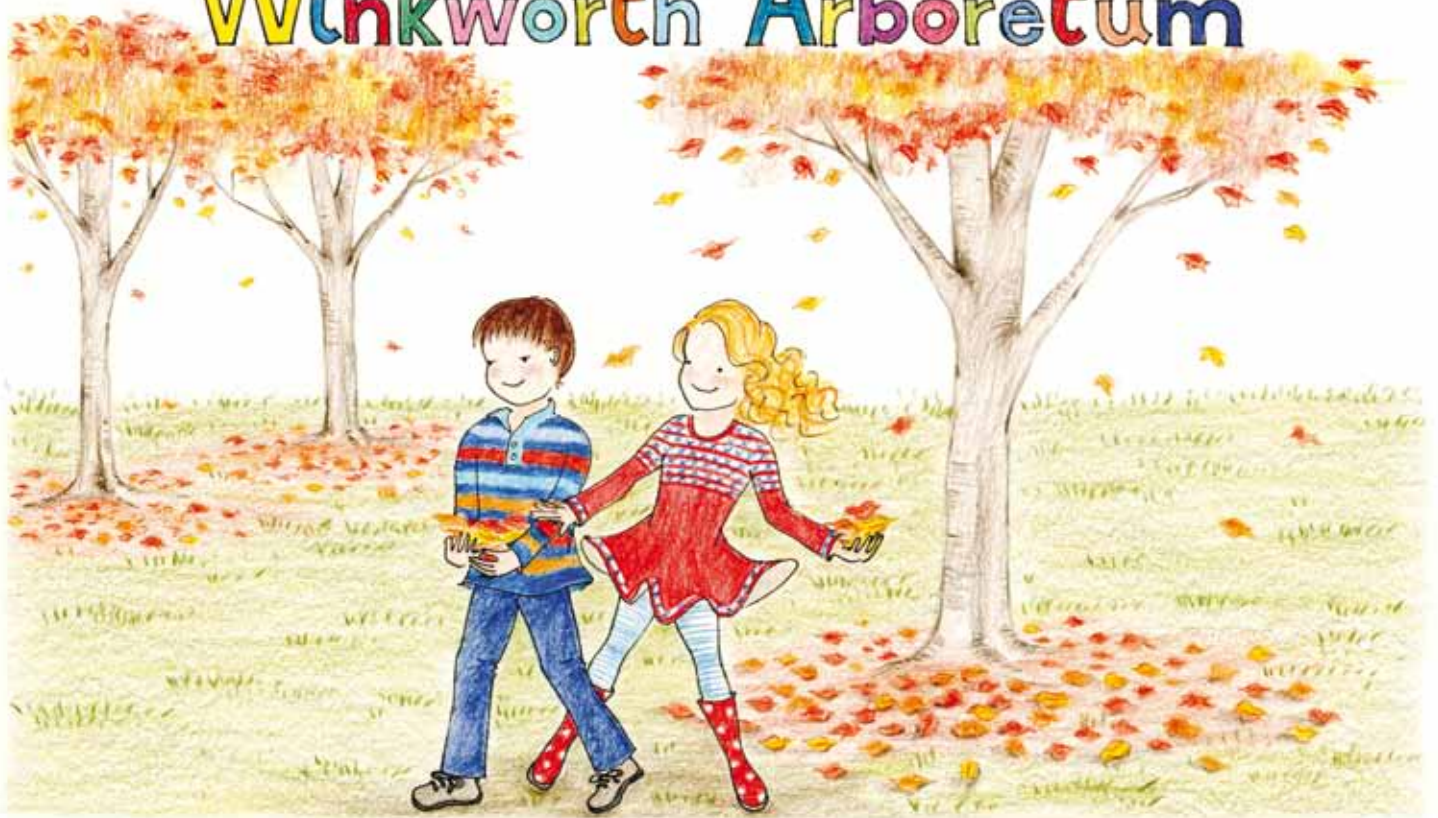
but the lizards



ran away.



# Winkworth Arboretum



Alex



and Rosie



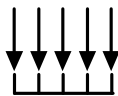
visited



Winkworth Arboretum



in the autumn.



All



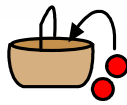
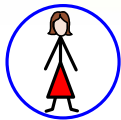
the leaves



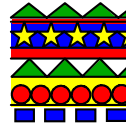
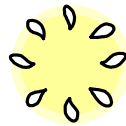
were changing



colour.



Mum and Dad collected a lot of leaves.



Alex and Rosie made beautiful patterns with the leaves.



# Newlands Corner



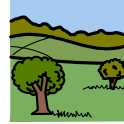
Alex



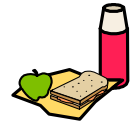
and Rosie



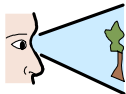
visited



Newlands Corner



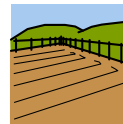
for a picnic.



The view across



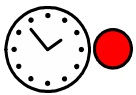
the woods



and fields



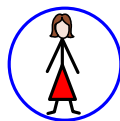
was amazing!



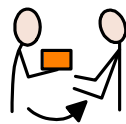
After



lunch



Mum



gave



Alex



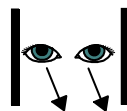
and Rosie



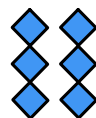
coloured cards.



They enjoyed



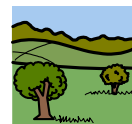
looking



for similar



colours



in the meadow.



# Polesden Lacey



Alex



and Rosie



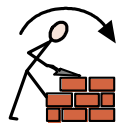
found



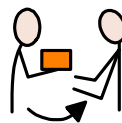
an insect hotel



in the woods.



It was built



to provide



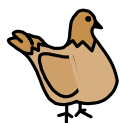
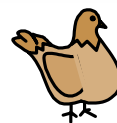
a home



for insects.



Later they discovered the Polesdon Lacey chickens.



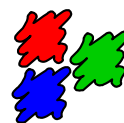
The chickens



lived



in a very



colourful



house.



# Denbies Hillside



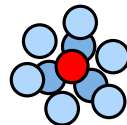
Alex



and Rosie



walked



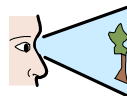
amongst



the wild flowers.



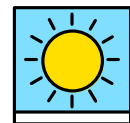
They were surprised



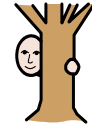
to see



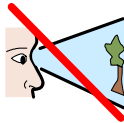
burnet moths



in the daytime.



Along the path they found a Roman snail hiding in the grass.



Alex and Rosie had never seen such a large snail before!



# Box Hill



Box Hill



is one of Alex



and Rosie's



favourite



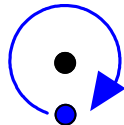
places.



They like



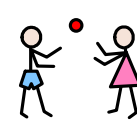
to walk



around



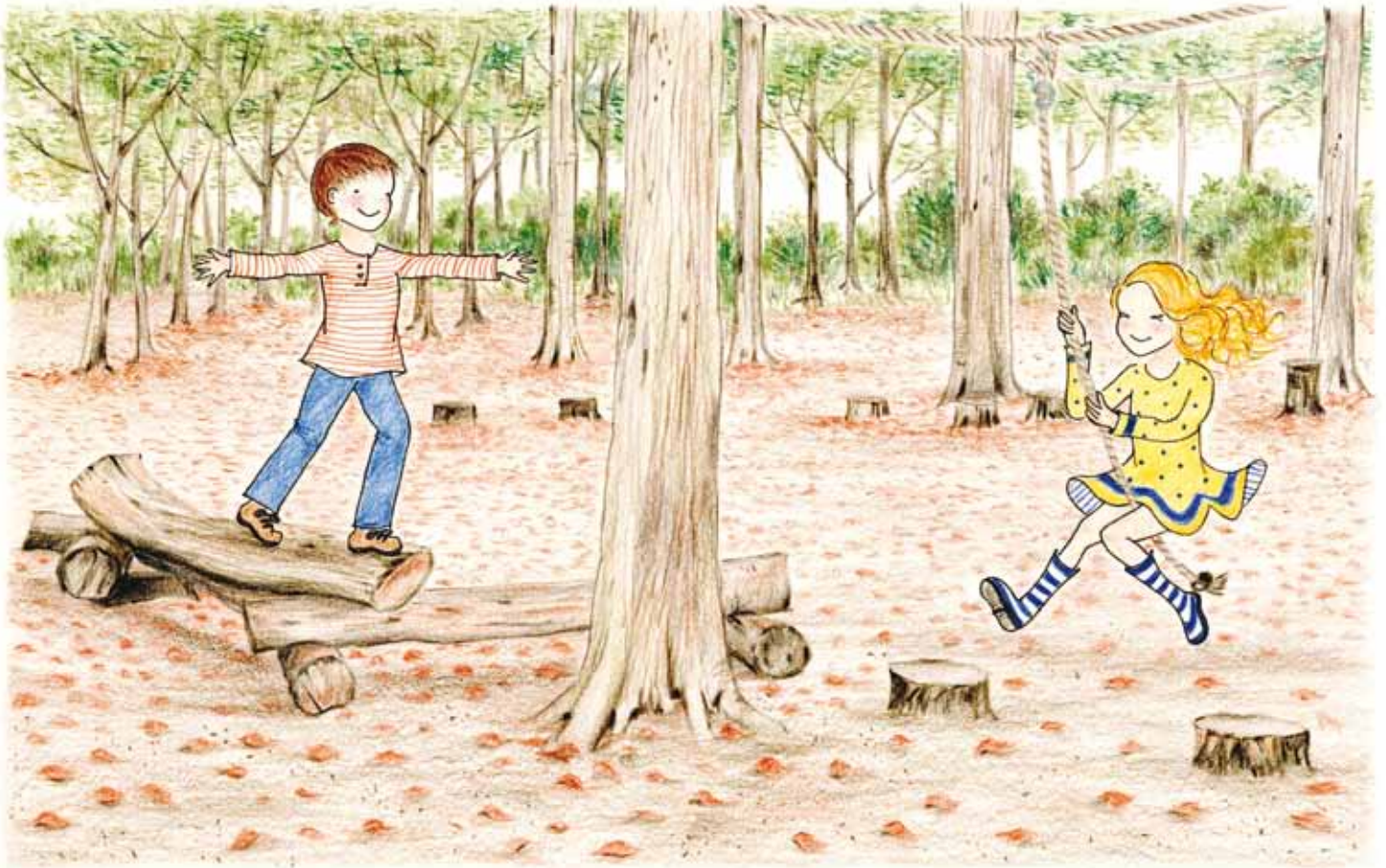
the natural



play



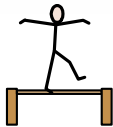
trail.



Alex



likes



balancing



on logs



and stepping stones.



Rosie



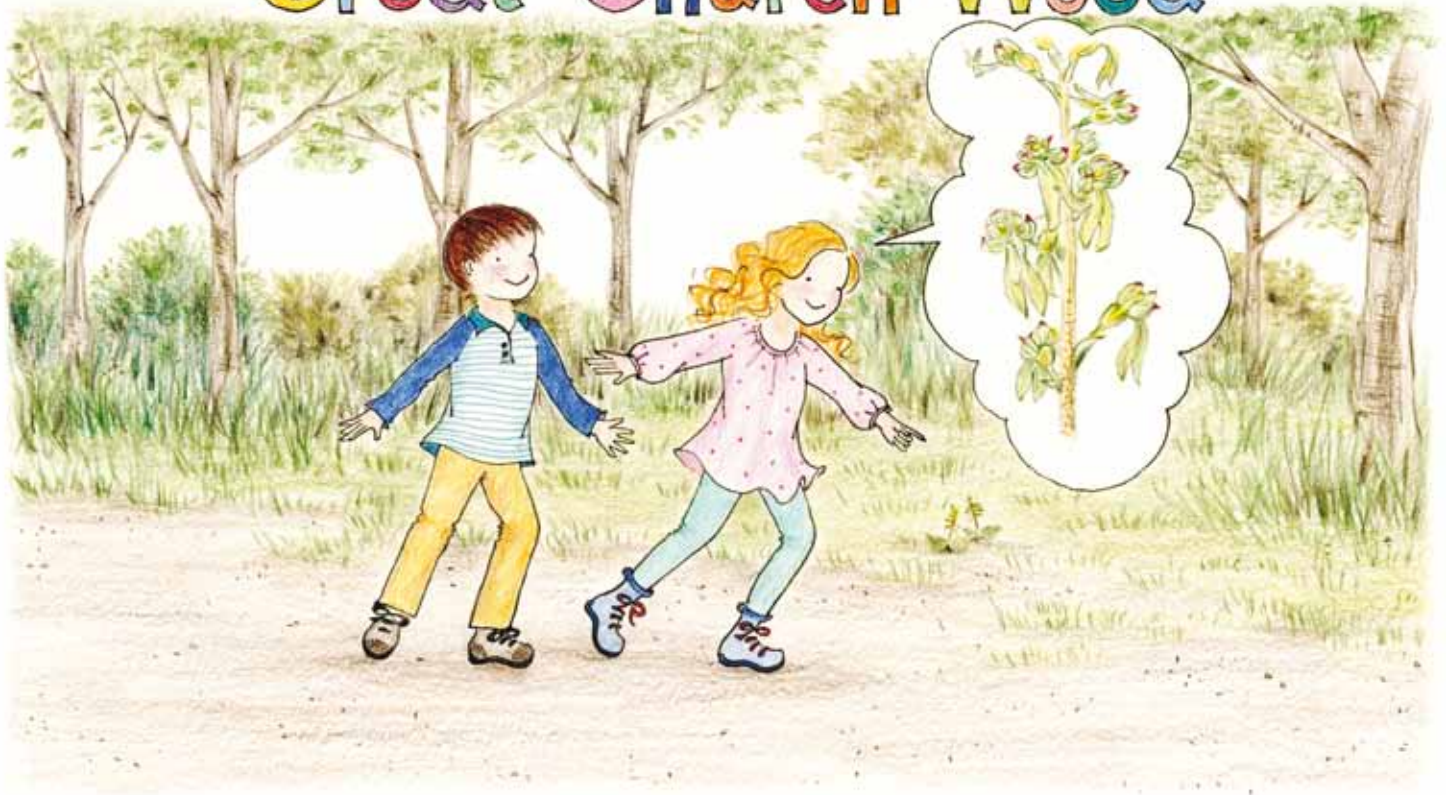
prefers



to swing on the ropes.



# Great Church Wood



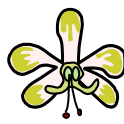
Alex



and Rosie



found



orchids



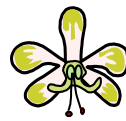
in Great Church Wood.



Rosie



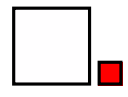
was surprised



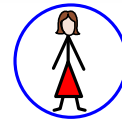
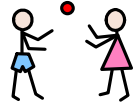
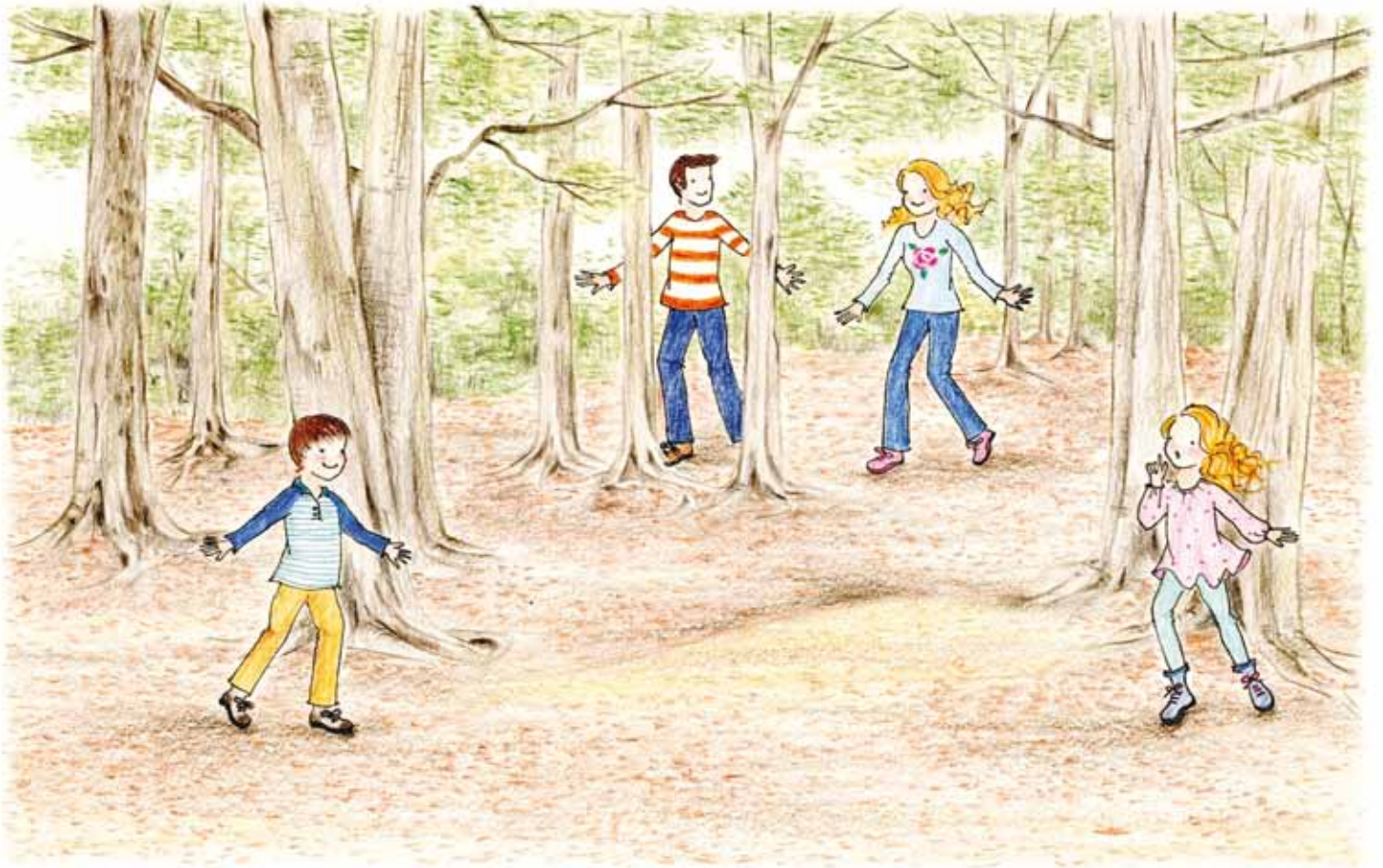
because the flowers



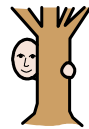
were very



small.



Later they played hide and seek with Mum and dad.



Alex and Rosie enjoyed hiding behind the beech trees.



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Alex and Rosie had a lot of fun visiting their favourite places in the Surrey countryside. Find out where they went and what they saw.

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