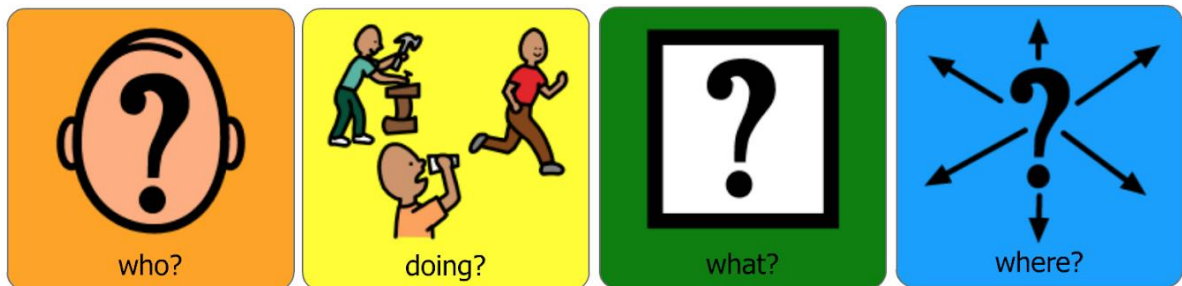




Integrated
Treatment Services
Client-centred Therapy

Colourful Semantics

Introduction



Colourful Semantics is a system created by Alison Bryan - resource created with

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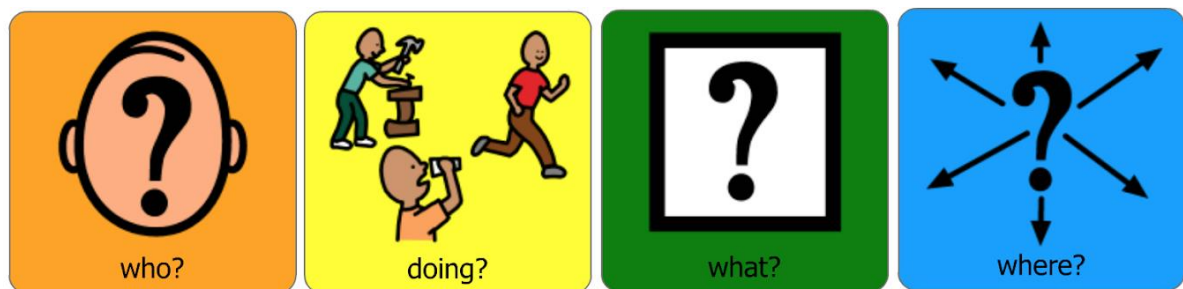
What is Colourful Semantics?

Colourful Semantics is an approach created by Alison Bryan, a Speech and Language Therapist based in the UK. It is a method of teaching children how to understand and build sentences as well as to develop their grammar by linking the structure of a sentence (syntax) and the meaning of words (semantics).

Colourful Semantics has four key stages and these are colour coded:

- Who (Subject) – Orange
- What doing (Verb) – Yellow
- What (Object) – Green
- Where – Blue

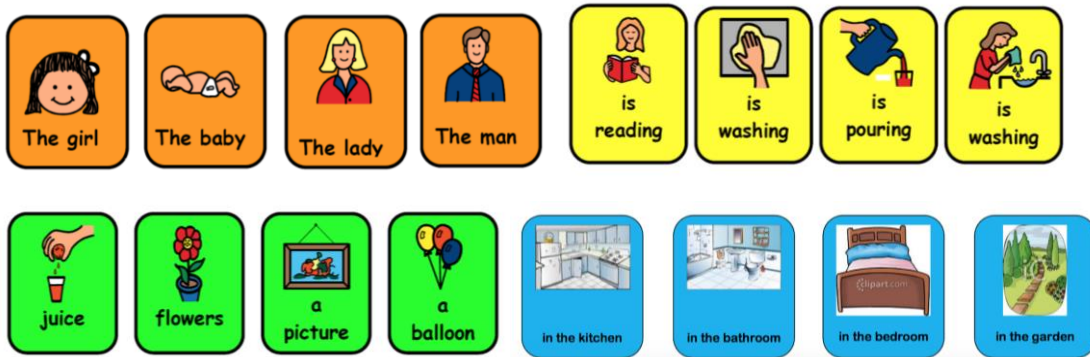
Once you have covered the above four stages, there are additional stages/colours for adverbs, adjectives, conjunctions and negatives. This image of a colour strip is an example of a child working at level 4.



Pictures/symbols (as shown below) can also be used alongside the key colours for each stage to help with those who may have difficulties with vocabulary.

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Why use Colourful Semantics?

Research into Colourful Semantics has found that it:

- Encourages a wider vocabulary
- Increases mean length of utterance/sentence length
- Helps children to answer questions (Who? Doing? What? Where?)
- Develops use of nouns, verbs, prepositions and adjectives
- Improves story-telling (narrative) skills
- Can be transferred to written sentences and reading comprehension
- Can be carried out individually or in small groups or as a whole class approach.

Who can benefit from Colourful Semantics?

The approach can be used to help all children develop their language skills, but it can be especially helpful for children with a range of Speech, Language and Communication Needs, including (but not limited to):

- Developmental Language Disorder (previously known as Specific Language Impairment)

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- Developmental Delay or Disorder
- Autistic Spectrum Condition
- Down Syndrome
- Literacy difficulties
- Dyslexia
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Colourful Semantics also works brilliantly as a whole-school approach for supporting language and literacy development and can be used in all classrooms.

Who can implement it?

A Speech and Language can train you on how to use Colourful Semantics with specific children or as a whole school approach. This then means that teachers and teaching assistants can then implement the approach to those who require support.

Evidence for Colourful Semantics

Studies have shown that the colourful semantics approach is a useful approach when working with children (Bolderson, Dosanjh, Milligan, Pring & Chiat, 2011).
References
Bolderson, S., Dosanjh, C., Milligan, C., Pring, T. & Chiat, S. (2011). Colourful semantics: a clinical investigation. *Child Language Teaching and Therapy*, 27, pp.344-353.

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