

Colourful Semantics

“Colourful semantics is an approach created by Alison Bryan. It is aimed at helping children to develop their grammar, by linking the structure of a sentence (syntax) and its meaning (semantics).” [Integrated Treatment Services](#)

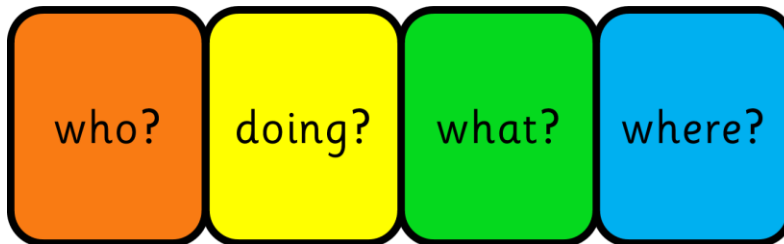
Why use Colourful Semantics?

Colourful Semantics helps children to:

- Develop a wider vocabulary
- Make sentences longer
- Develop use of nouns, verbs, prepositions and adjectives
- Improve story telling skills

How to use Colourful Semantics

There are 4 key colour coded stages to 'show' the structure of a sentence:



Colourful Semantics is first used as an oral activity but it can be transferred to written sentences and written language comprehension. The activity can be carried out individually or in small groups.

Below is an example of stage 3:



Who?

Noun (person) cards



Om



boy



man



woman



people



toddler

Doing?

Verb cards



chipping



sharpening



running



hunting



carrying



cooking



making



throwing



walking

Doing?

Verb cards



looking



smelling



pointing



shouting



showing



talking



dancing



looking



running

What?

Noun (object) cards



clothes



tent



food



rocks



spear



fire



bear



fish



reindeer

What?

Noun (object) cards



cave lion



boar



forest



cave



cave painting



torch



camp

who?

doing?

who?

doing?

who?

doing?

who?

doing?

what?

who?

doing?

what?

who?

doing?

what?