Colourful Semantics

What is Colourful Semantics?

Colourful Semantics is a system for colour coding sentences according to the role of different words. It can help children to break down sentences and understand the individual meaning of each word and its role in the sentence. It can help children to better understand word order. Children can use colourful semantics to build up meaningful, well-structured sentences.
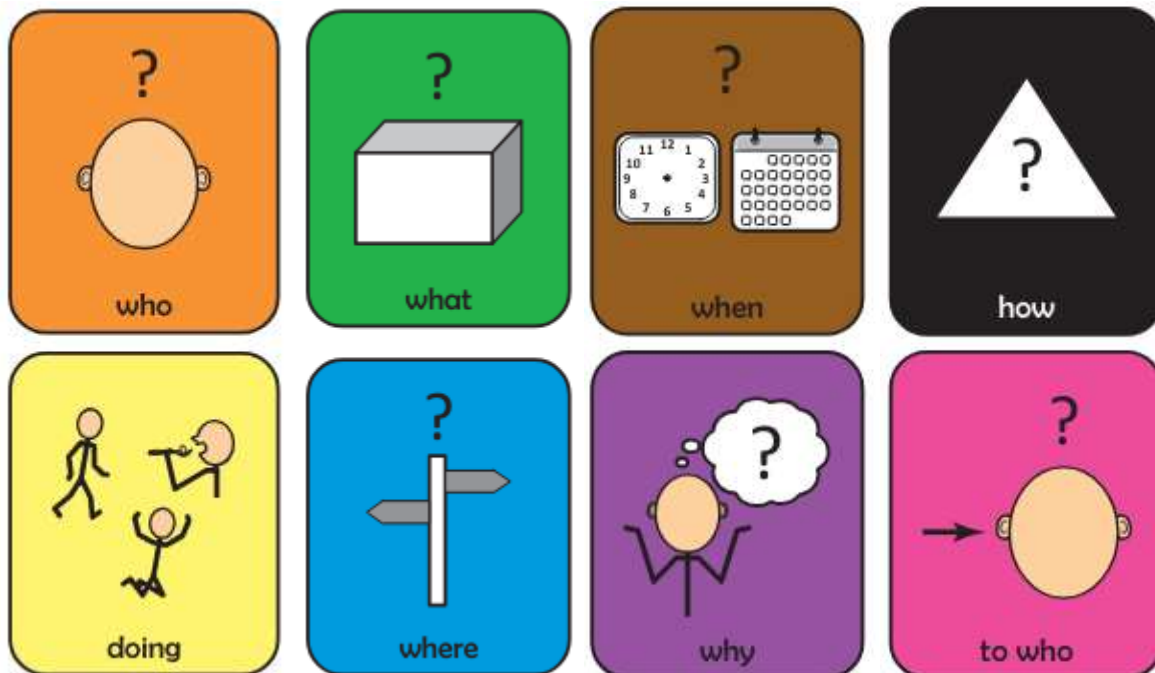
How is it used at Beech Hill?

Colourful Semantics is particularly useful for children who find the following difficult;

- Ordering and sequencing their language
- Correctly answering wh- questions
- Constructing more complex language
- Children who use chunks of language but don't appear to be able to use the individual words meaningfully

We use Colourful Semantics symbols from nursery all the way up to year 6. In nursery they use 'who' to self-register, in reception they use 'where' to access the different areas of provision and then it is integrated into different lessons to support the development of spoken and written language.

Colour Coding Cards

Colourful semantics uses specific colours and shapes that must be followed:

How to use WHO at home

✓ Reading books

Look through a book your child is familiar with and ask your child who questions about the book, or point to characters in the book e.g.

Who is this?

Adults can model the correct name or noun if your child responds by just pointing or saying "her / she is!" – adults say "Yes, the queen!" or 'Yes, the Gruffalo!'

✓ Watching TV

When watching your child's favourite TV show or one they are familiar with and ask your child who questions about the characters, or pause the programme and point to the characters e.g.

Who is this?

Adults can model the correct name or noun if your child responds by just pointing or saying "her / she is!" – adults say "Yes, Rubble!" or 'Yes, dog!'

How to use DOING at home

✓ Play Simon Says

Use this game to get your child to do the action/verb what to do e.g.

Simon says…**jump**! Simon says…**sleep**! Simon says…**swim**!

You can take this further and get your child to give you the commands

Child says…Mummy **eat**! Child says…Mummy **dance**! Child says…Mummy **walk**!

✓ <u>Actions with toys</u>

Using some soft toys/toys ask your child to tell you what to do with them – the instructions can be silly e.g. Make….teddy **eat** dinosaur, make superman **fly**
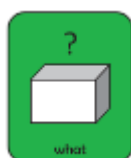

✓ <u>Reading books</u>

Look through a book your child is familiar with and ask your child doing questions about the book, or point to characters who are doing actions e.g.

Owl **doing**?

Adults can model the correct verb and action if your child responds by just pointing to the owl– adults say "Yes, flying!"

How to use WHAT at home

✓ <u>Reading books</u>

Look through a book your child is familiar with and ask your child doing questions about the book, or point to characters what they are doing actions e.g.

What is the boy holding?

If you child is in the easy stages of learning language you can say,

What boy holding?

Adults can model the correct object word if your child responds by just pointing to the dinosaur – adults say "Yes, holding a brush!"

✓ <u>Watching TV</u>

When watching your child's favourite TV show or one they are familiar with and ask your child what questions about the characters, or pause the programme and point to the characters e.g.

What is Bluey throwing?

If you child is in the easy stages of learning language you can say,

What Bluey throwing?

Adults can model the correct name or noun if your child responds by just pointing or saying "he / he is!" – adults say "Yes, a ball'

✓ In the supermarket

When you are out in the supermarket or shop ask your child what questions linked to what you are buying or passing in the aisles e.g.

What?

Adults can model the correct object word if your child responds by just adults say "Yes, a banana!"

How to use WHERE at home

✓ Reading books

Look through a book your child is familiar with and ask your child where questions about the book, or point to characters where they are and where the story is set e.g.

Where is the tiger?

If you child is in the easy stages of learning language you can say,

Where?

Adults can model the correct object word if your child responds by just pointing to the image – adults say "Yes, the kitchen!" or 'Yes, the farm'

✓ Actions with toys

Using some soft toys or a doll's house, ask your child to tell you where to put them with them – the instructions can be silly e.g.

Where shall I put dolly?

Adults can model the correct place if your child responds by just pointing to a room – adults say "Yes, the kitchen!" or 'Yes, the bathroom'

✓ Hide and Seek with toys

Using some soft toys place the teddy in different places around the house. Get your child to find the teddy and tell you where they have found them.

Where is teddy?

Adults can model the correct place if your child responds by just pointing to the teddy in the room – adults say "Yes, the on the chair!" or 'Yes, the bedroom'

For support around the other elements of Colourful Semantics, please speak to your class teacher or SENDCo.