

Abbey Farm Educate Together Primary School

September 2026

What is Colourful Semantics?

Colourful Semantics is a language support approach designed to help children develop their language and communication skills. We use this as a whole class approach at AFET, where appropriate.

The Colourful Semantics approach uses colour-coded elements to represent different parts of a sentence. **Each colour corresponds to a specific type of word** or element in a sentence. The main components typically include:

- **Who?** (Subject): Represented by the colour yellow.
- **What doing?** (Verb): Represented by the colour orange.
- **What?** (Object): Represented by the colour red.
- **Where?** (Location): Represented by the colour blue.
- **When?** (Time): Represented by the colour green.

By associating specific colours with different parts of a sentence, Colourful Semantics aims to make sentence structure more visually and conceptually accessible. The use of colours helps individuals understand and remember the relationships between different elements in a sentence.

How does Colourful Semantics benefit my child?

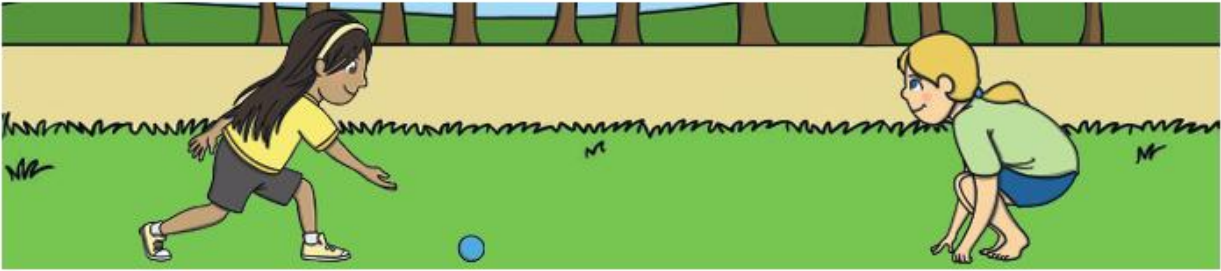
Colourful Semantics can offer several benefits to your child's language development:

- The use of colours provides a visual aid that can help make abstract linguistic concepts more concrete.
- Your child may find it easier to understand and remember sentence structures when associated with specific colours.
- Colourful Semantics offers a structured approach to learning sentence construction, a bit like building blocks. This structure can be particularly beneficial if your child thrives on routine and clear frameworks.
- By breaking down sentences into different components and assigning colours to each part, Colourful Semantics can help your child understand the relationships between different elements of a sentence. This can contribute to improved comprehension skills.

This provides a framework for constructing well-formed sentences, promoting more complex and varied language use. As your child works with Colourful Semantics, they engage with different types of words (e.g., nouns, verbs, etc.) associated with specific colours. This can contribute to vocabulary development and a deeper understanding of word meanings and usage as well as support their understanding of spelling, grammar and punctuation. However, importantly we do not launch straight into all colours - we build this up gradually overtime, starting with the 4 core colours - **who**, **doing**, **what**, **where**.

Example:

An example:



Sentence:

Sahira

is rolling

the ball

in the park.

to Harriet.

The explanation:

Question word	Colour coding	Example
who?	orange	Sahira is rolling the ball.
what doing?	yellow	Sahira is rolling the ball.
what?	green	Sahira is rolling the ball.
where?	blue	Sahira is rolling the ball in the park.
to who(m)?	pink	Sahira is rolling the ball to Harriet.