

Speech and Language Therapy

Building Simple Sentences

Lesson 10 of 14 on Using Language

Emma Jones



Colourful Semantics

Colourful Semantics is a programme that was developed by a Speech and Language Therapist named Alison Bryan.

It is a colour coded approach to show how a sentence is made up.



Who?

Orange - Nouns and naming words

Can include:

People e.g. man, baby, Grandma

Animals e.g. horse, dog, butterfly

Occupations e.g. clown, hairdresser, doctor

Pronouns e.g. he, she, it, they

(Include added describing words e.g. The small boy, The white horse, The happy girl)

What doing?

Yellow - Verbs (action words)

Can include:

‘Stand alone’ verbs e.g. run, sit

Verbs associated with objects e.g. wash (car), brush (hair)

Doing words that are used in different tenses (past, present, future)

is/are/was/were - (copula) verb ‘to be’
e.g. The boy is tall



Encourage sentences!

Model joining words together by ‘Who?’ and ‘What doing?’ in the pictures.

Expand your child’s language by using their words in a short sentence. E.g. if the child says “car” when moving a toy car, you can turn that into a simple sentence like “The car is driving!”.

Point to things and emphasis your ‘Who’ and ‘What doing’ words e.g. ‘Look, caterpillar eating!’

Build the language into your everyday situations and playtime by commenting and labeling who is doing what in play

E.g. ‘Mummy drinking’, ‘Billy building’



Make it visual!

Make symbols and sentence strips for 'Who?' and 'What doing?'

You will need:

- Coloured paper/pencils- Orange and yellow
- Scissors
- Paper
- Writing equipment
- 'How to make symbols and sentence strips' sheet

Making a sentence strips for 'Who?' and 'What doing?'

Step 1 - take 1 plain sheet of a4 paper and turn it landscape

Step 2 - draw 3 boxes on the piece of paper so it looks like example below

Step 3 - either colour the two smaller boxes at the bottom in so they look like this, or cut out and stick down a piece of orange and yellow paper



Nouns you might want to include!

People

Lady
Man
Boy
Girl
Mummy
Daddy
Grandma
Grandad
Sister
Brother
Baby
Children

Animals

Dog
Cat
Horse
Fish
Bird
Butterfly
Monkey
Bear
Pig
Cow
Chicken
Dinosaur

Occupations

Clown
Doctor
Nurse
Policeman
Teacher
Helper
Fireman
Taxi driver
Builder
Baker
Butcher



Verbs you might want to include!

Drink

Eat

Walk

Run

Play

Read

Wash

Brush

Sleep

Paint

Draw

Look

Build

Mix

Throw

Cook

Sing

Dance

Cut

Stick

Lift

Carry

Pour

Write



Give time! Have you given them enough time to formulate an answer? WAIT 10 seconds!!



Give a sentence starter e.g. “The girl is.....”



Give a clue e.g. related to the picture or a sound clue “It begins with rrrrrr...”



Give a choice e.g. “Is she running or eating?”



Model and comment on what you see e.g. “Ah, I think she is eating”



Using Language Diary

Date:

We learnt about

When my adult

I...

Insert picture

