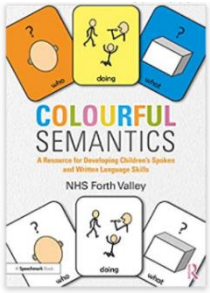
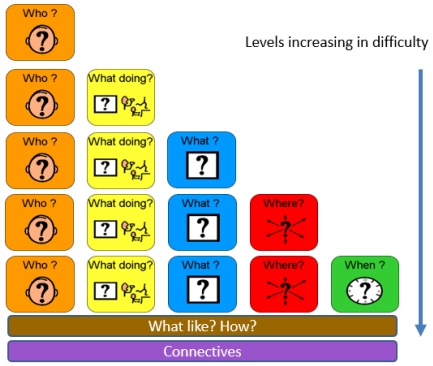
Helping with talking and understanding

User guide:
Colourful Semantics

The intervention	**Colourful Semantics: A Resource for Developing Children's Spoken and Written Language Skills (NHS Forth Valley).** 
Where to find it? **How much does it cost?**	Colourful Semantics: A Resource for Developing Children's Spoken and (routledge.com) (and other online shops). £45.59.
What does it target?	Developed in conjunction with education staff, this resource draws on the principles of Alison Bryan's original colourful semantics approach to provide professionals with an engaging, dynamic way to support children's language development. By coding sentences using colour, symbols and signs, this visual approach aims to: • Teach understanding of question words. • Develop vocabulary and increase sentence complexity. • Increase range and complexity of verbs (children with delayed or disordered spoken language skills often overuse simple verbs such as do, go or get). • Improve children's written language skills.
Who is it for?	For teachers and professionals looking to work on language development with children aged four to eight years but can be adapted for older children.
What is it?	This resource consists of three parts: • A printed book containing ready-made session plan ideas. • Black and white vocabulary cards and worksheets. • An online version.
How does it work?	The session plans can be used with individuals, small groups, and whole classes, and can be easily adapted by teachers and other practitioners.
Who can deliver it?	Teaching assistant or teacher.
How long does it take?	The session plans are a suggestion only and can be easily differentiated for different ages and abilities.

What resources do I need?	The resource pack provides session plans and all resources required to run the intervention.

How do I show progress?	Tasks in the BDCFT screening tool can be used to record and compare the child's responses when colourful semantics support is used.
What next?	Continue to work through the levels, depending on the child's responses. **Colour Coding Levels** 
Top tips	This resource provides materials that are fully adaptable for different colour coding systems used alongside the colourful semantics approach. BDCFT Speech and Language Therapy team use the colours detailed on the right, to align with colours used in published narrative resources, such as those developed by Black Sheep Press, which are often used in settings alongside colourful semantics.
Additional resources	• www.Twinkl.co.uk and search "colourful semantics" for a range of useful resources. NB if the resources have been made with the original colours – you can contact Twinkl who will update the colours to match BDCFT colours. • Join Facebook groups "colourful semantics community" and "colourful semantics resource swaps" for ideas and resources. • Colourful Semantics - Module One - Integrated Treatment Services for videos and further information about using this approach.
Evidence base	Colourful Semantics (ican.org.uk)

Question	Colourful semantics colours	BDCFT colours
Who	Orange	Orange
Doing (verb)	Yellow	Yellow
What	Green	Blue
Where	Blue	Red
When	Brown	Green
Why	Purple	Brown
To who	Pink	Pink
How	black	purple

Office use:
Review date: