

## Colour Coding 3 - Verb + Object

Colour coding is an approach to help children with language difficulties. Your speech and language therapist has recommended this approach and explained why it will help your child. Our Colour coding pack tells you more about the approach and how to use it.

You should complete the colour coding packs 1 and 2 before starting this pack.

### Verb + Object

- Your child now knows that verbs are red 'what doing' words.
- You will have practised helping your child to understand red words are 'action' or 'what doing' words.
- You have also practised learning the 'blue' word is the 'subject' or 'who' word.
- This stage helps you learn the last part of the sentence. This is called the 'object' word. It describes an object or thing being talked about.
- In our colour coding, object words are yellow. We use a 'what' question to ask about yellow words. Your child needs to learn the link between the yellow colour and the 'what' sentence to use colour coding well.
- Some children need to practise joining the verb + object together before joining all 3 parts of the sentence.

### What You Will Need

- A verb + object sentence strip – a board with red 'what doing' and yellow 'what' squares
- Verb symbols (red pictures)
- Object symbols (yellow pictures)

You will find these in our [colour coding pack](#).

Your speech and language therapist may have given you some 'Blacksheep press verb pictures' to use with this pack. These are the pictures you are describing or talking about. You can also use:

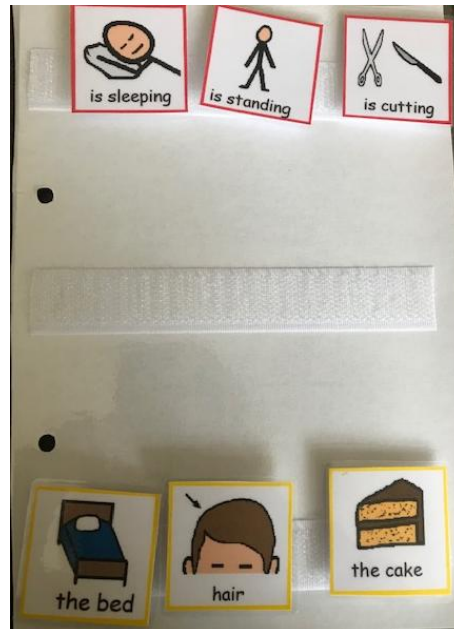
- Simple pictures from favourite books
- Pictures of your child playing or doing different actions with objects and toys
- Pictures of characters your child likes doing different things
- Objects like your child's favourite cuddly toy. You can make the toy do different actions (e.g. kick a ball)

Print out the pictures and the sentence strip in colour. Cut out the symbols. If you have any words you need that are missing, draw these on the blank symbols.

### How to Use the Pack

1. Choose a simple picture to look at with your child
2. Place the picture on the sentence strip or have the strip under the book

3. Have a mixture of some of the red symbols and yellow symbols ready for your child to select. You can try 3-4 of each colour. It helps to have them grouped by colour to help your child find them. Like this:



4. Say to your child 'we need a red word.' 'A what doing word'. 'What is he doing?' 'He's.....' Encourage your child to put the verb on the sentence strip
5. Ask your child to find the object word e.g. 'what is he kicking?'. 'We need our yellow word'. 'He's kicking a ....' Encourage your child to place the yellow symbol on the sentence strip.
6. Model the sentence to your child or encourage them to say it too e.g. 'He's kicking a ball'



verb + object



As your child practises, see if they can begin to find the right words and say the sentence on their own. Notice which words they are starting to use.

You will need to do the activity a few times to check your child knows the red word is a 'what doing' word and the 'object word is yellow. It can take children time to use both words together in a sentence.

Don't worry if your child is missing out the small words in a sentence like 'is', 'a' and 'the'. Say these words as you repeat back the sentence.

Keep talking about the colour as you practise making your sentences. The colour helps your child to know what the words do in a sentence. They also learn the pattern of the sentence using the colours.

### **My Child is Finding the Activity Difficult**

If your child finds the activity hard you can try:

- Offering a choice of 2 symbols for each colour
- Using Makaton sign or gesture to help them find the right verb and object words
- Modelling choosing the right symbol and putting it on the strip
- If your child gets a word wrong – model the correct answer to them and help them change the symbol
- Your child might need to practise the colour coding 1 verb pack for a bit longer if they find it very hard.

### **More Ways to Help**

- Use verb and object words in play – as your child is playing, remember to say the action + object words to say what is happening e.g. '**building a tower**'
- Routines – use verb and object words as you go through your daily routines e.g. 'you're **brushing hair**', 'I'm **washing the cups**', 'you're **drinking juice**',
- Books – when looking at books together, talk about what is happening in the picture e.g. 'what is Peppa doing?', 'she is...**eating apples**'
- Match and stretch – repeating your child's word and adding 1 more word helps your child to build sentences. Try to model verb + object words. See our [YouTube video](#) on how to do this

See our [colour coding video](#) on YouTube for more help on how to do colour coding. If you have any more questions, contact your speech and language therapist.