

Using 'Shape Coding' to teach grammar to school-aged children with SLI

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9.30 – 3.30pm

£150

The 'Shape Coding' system was designed to teach grammatical rules to school-aged children with SLI. It has been developed over the last 12 years mainly for use with children in Key Stages 2 and 3 (aged 7-14 years) although it has also been used with younger and older pupils. It aims to use the visual strengths of many children with SLI by using a visual coding system to represent grammatical features of English. The system includes use of colours (parts of speech), arrows (tense and aspect) and shapes (syntactic and argument structure). It has been used to teach children the following aspects of grammar:

- Parts of speech
- Questions
- Past vs present tense
- Noun-verb agreement
- Verb argument structure
- Passive vs active sentences
- Dative sentences
- Embedded structures
- Conjunctions

This workshop will introduce participants to the basics of the Shape Coding system and the variety of ways in which it can be used. It will include practical activities to encourage an active understanding of the system (bring your coloured pencils!) Evidence for the effectiveness of Shape Coding will be also provided as well as discussions of which students may or may not benefit.

References

Ebbels, S. and van der Lely, H. (2001). *Meta-syntactic therapy using visual coding for children with severe persistent SLI*. *International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders* **36**(supplement), 345-350.

Ebbels, S.H. (2007) *Teaching grammar to school-aged children with Specific Language Impairment using Shape Coding*. *Child Language Teaching and Therapy*, 23, 67-93.

Ebbels, S.H., van der Lely, H.K.J., and Dockrell, J.E. (2007) *Intervention for verb argument structure in children with persistent SLI: a randomized control trial*. *Journal of Speech Language and Hearing Research*, 50, 1330-1349