

facilecture is a valuable and effective resource

I am a Literacy and Languages Coordinator in a state primary school based in Devon, England. I teach French in classes from Foundation to Year 6 (4-11 year olds). I have also worked as a Lead Teacher for Primary Languages for Devon LA.

The children I work with mainly have English as their first language and tend to have very limited experience of second language learning outside school. They have an hour or less of French teaching per week.

I have been using Francis Ribano's colour code system, ***facilecture*** for nearly four years. During this time I have found it extremely useful in two main areas of my work; children's pronunciation when reading; and giving non-specialist teachers confidence to teach new words and phrases with correct pronunciation.

I usually introduce new words and phrases to my classes through songs and stories featuring native speakers. This multi-sensory approach ensures good pronunciation and understanding.

There is a point when, to progress, children need to see and use the written words. I used to find that as soon as children saw the words and phrases they had been pronouncing so well in oral activities they tended to apply their knowledge of English phonetics resulting in incorrect pronunciation. This was disappointing since before seeing the written word their pronunciation was good.

The colour code system has provided the perfect scaffold, a bridge between the spoken and written word.

The colours help children to see a letter or string of letters and instead of applying English phonics they say the sound associated with the colour. With support they begin to notice the letters associated with the sound.

Gradually over time I have found that they no longer need the colour coding and can apply good pronunciation to normal black and white text.

I have found the colour coding particularly important with younger pupils: Reception to Year 3. These children are still learning the English phonics rules.

The second way I have found the colour code system extremely useful is when working with non-specialist teachers.

Often these teachers need to introduce new words and phrases to their classes which they feel uncertain about. Even when resources with sound files are available it can be tricky for non specialist teachers to catch the correct pronunciation.

Seeing the words colour coded and being able check the correct sounds using the recordings provided as part of the **Déclit des sons facilecture** package is hugely helpful.

In fact I have found once such teachers have used the **facilecture** colour code system they ask for all new material to be colour coded.

The magic of **facilecture** is that it gives them confidence to teach more words and phrases than they might have considered before. And as with the children I teach, they too, begin to learn and apply the phonics rules highlighted by the colours and thus gradually reduce their need for the colour code.

In summary Francis Ribano's colour code system **facilecture** is a valuable and effective resource when working in the English education system with French language learners.

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