

Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns are words we use instead of names when something belongs to someone.

For example; his, hers, theirs

How can I help my child understand and use possessive pronouns?

Your child will first need to understand how possessive pronouns work. Explain that:

- When we are talking about something that belongs to a boy/man we use the word 'his'.
- When we talk about something that belongs to a lady/girl we use the word 'her' or hers'.
- When we are talking about something that belongs to more than one person we use the word 'their' / 'theirs'.
- Introduce and model the use of possessive pronouns for your child to hear using familiar people e.g. 'it's granny's bag; it's hers'.
- Encourage your child to listen carefully for the '**his**', '**her**' and '**their**' words, and use them in day-to-day situations, e.g. "that dog belongs to your friends; it's theirs".

Practising pronouns

- Give your child lots of praise when they remember to use **his**, **hers** or **theirs** words, for example, "you're right, it is **his** money!"
- After you have read a book, look at the pictures and identify things that belong to the characters. "No, that porridge was not hers."
- Use people and characters that your child is interested in. For example, when watching the television, talk to your child about the program using the possessive pronouns e.g. Ben10: "That watch is **his**." Encourage your child to draw pictures of people with items they think they would like e.g. **his** bike, these are **her** shoes.
- Circle game: Each child puts something of theirs into a circle e.g. jumper, shoe. Children take it in turns to give the items back to who they belong to saying "This is **his/her** _____".
- Barrier Game: In pairs, each child has line drawing of a boy and a girl. Each child gives their partner an instruction such as "colour **his** hair yellow".

Self Correction

When your child becomes more familiar with using possessive pronouns:

- Give your child choices "Do you mean **he's** or **his**?"
- Encourage your child to monitor and self correct "the ball is **she's**?"