

Pronouns

Pronouns are words that replace a proper name. For example, he, she, they, his, her, their.

How can I help my child develop understanding and use of pronouns?

- Your child will first need to understand how pronouns work. Explain that when we are talking about a boy/man we use the word "he". When we talk about a lady/girl we use the word "she". When we are talking about more than one person we use the word "they".
- Introduce and model the use of pronouns for your child to hear using familiar people e.g. mummy is a she, granddad is a he.
- You can introduce this idea to your child by talking about members of the family. E.g. "Mummy: she likes chocolate" "Granddad: he likes cars"
- Encourage your child to listen carefully for the **he**, **she** and **they** words, and use them in day-to-day situations, e.g. "look at your friends; **they** are walking to school".
- Give your child lots of praise when they remember to use **he**, **she** or **they** words, for example, "you're right, **he** is jumping!"
- After you have read a book, look at the pictures and identify whether the characters are **he** or **she** or **they**. Start by telling your child which they are. In time they will start telling you.
- 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 pronouns e.g. Ben10: **He** is running.

Use the pictures given to you by your therapist or cut out pictures of people from magazines, newspapers or catalogues. You can use them to play the following games:

- Pairs, snap or lotto games. Make sure you say the word every time you or your child put down or pick up a card, e.g. "**she** is eating". After a while, encourage your child to say whether it is **he** or **she** or **they**.
- Skittles: Place a picture under each skittle. Take turns to roll the ball and knock the skittles down. You and your child name the pictures under each skittle that is knocked down.



- Bean bag game: Lay the pictures face down, on the floor. Take turns to throw a beanbag onto the pictures. Talk about the picture you land on, for example "He is waving".



- Put the pictures in a pile and play any board game. Take turns to turn over a card and make a sentence, e.g. they are walking. When you use the correct pronoun you roll the dice and take a turn on the board game.

- Use the pictures to make a 'pronoun book'. Make a separate page for **he**, **she** and **they**. Talk about the pictures using the words **he**, **she** or **they**.
- Put the pictures in different places within the room and ask the child to run/walk/hop/crawl to **he**, **they** or **she**. The child then has a turn giving you instructions.
- Mime an action. Each person pretends to complete an action. The other group members guess what she is doing, e.g. "she is reading"
- Barrier game: Give two children or two groups a worksheet with a line drawing of a boy and a girl. Put a barrier in the middle of the two children / teams so they cannot see the other's worksheets. The children need to listen carefully to instructions e.g. "**she** has a blue hat" "**he** has a bag". They take turns to give each other instructions. At the end of the game the children look through their worksheets to check who has listened carefully.
- Download and play the 'grammar board game' from this website under the 'talking' section.

Self Correction

- When your child becomes more familiar with using pronouns: Give your child choices "Do you mean **he** or **she**?"
- Encourage your child to monitor and self correct "**He** is jumping, does that sound right?"

