BELS Barnet Education & Learning Service

NHS Whittington Health NHS Trust

How to develop:

Grammar – understanding and use of pronouns

What is grammar?

Grammar consists of the rules that explain how words are used in a language e.g. verb tenses, plurals, pronouns etc.

What are pronouns?

Pronouns are words that replace nouns in a sentence, usually to avoid repeating the same noun over and over. Pronouns can be for people, things, concepts, and places. There are different types of pronouns that we use for specific nouns e.g. 'he', 'she', 'they' for people; 'it', 'that' for objects etc.

Below are some strategies and activity ideas to support understanding and use of pronouns.

Strategies

- **Build opportunities into everyday moments** – using what the child sees, does, hears everyday.
- Explain to the child what the pronoun you're focusing on represents e.g. "he", "she" and "they" pronouns are used for people – "he" is for a boy, "she" is for a girl, "they" is for an individual person/group of people".
- **Use visual support** - gesture, objects, photographs, symbols.
- **Use items/games the child enjoys** to keep the activity motivating.
- **Model accurate grammar in day-to-day life** – Children need to hear language modelled in the right way for them to understand and use it.
- **Choices or forced alternatives** - if the child has difficulty, offer two choices e.g. "he is running or she is running?".
- **Repeat back in the right way -** If a child makes an error, repeat the word/phrase/sentence back to them in the right way for them to hear. You do not need to tell them they were wrong or ask them to repeat you.

Activity ideas

Pictures

Look at pictures together e.g. in books and magazines. Point at the pictures to get your child's attention and describe what is happening using 'he' , 'she' and 'they'. For example: "he is riding a bike", "she is walking the dog". Cut pictures out of magazines and sort them into pictures which show 'he' and 'she'.

Books

When you are reading books together talk about what is happening in the story using 'he', 'she', 'they'. Once your child can understand the difference between 'he' and 'she' encourage them to start using 'he' and 'she' when describing pictures and people.

Talk about what people/children are doing

Talk about what other people and children are doing using the pronouns 'he', 'she' and 'they'. For example "he is building a tower", "she is playing on the computer", "they are running in the playground".