

Pronouns

What are they?

Pronouns are words used in place of naming words. For instances, when we talk about a person, instead of repeating their name, we can use the pronoun instead, e.g.

A younger child may say, 'My daddy took me to the park. My daddy pushed me on the swing and my daddy said I was a good boy'.

An older child may say, 'My daddy took me to the park. He pushed me on the swing and he said I was a good boy'.

Other pronouns your child will be learning include she, I, you, we and they.

Understanding and using pronouns: He and She

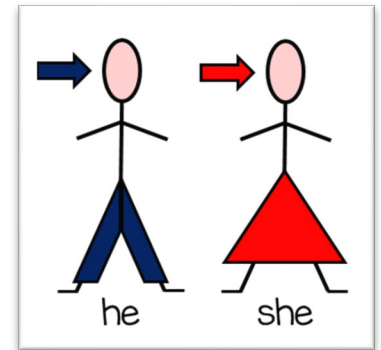
How you can help

Find two character toys, one a girl, e.g. Barbie, and the other a boy, e.g. Buzz Lightyear.

Demonstrate that the toys doing lots of different things, e.g. brush hair, wash face. Say to your child, 'Look he's washing his face', or 'Wow, she's jumping over that wall!'

Share books and use pronouns to talk about what's happening, e.g. 'Oh look, he's running and she looks happy when she's skipping'.

Talk about what children are doing in the park when you are out for a walk, or in town. Use a lead-in phrase to help your child relate the pronoun to the male or female, e.g. 'Look at that boy, he's playing hopscotch on the pavement' or 'Can you see that lady? She's eating Tayto crisps'.



Activities

During play try including two other members of the family or friends, a male and a female. This will give opportunities for them to use he or she.

Read simple fairy tales where a boy and a girl are involved, e.g. Hansel and Gretel and emphasise the he and she. Can your child fill in the correct pronoun if you pause and point to the boy or girl?

Understanding and using pronouns: I and you

How you can help

Tell your child that when we talk about ourselves, we use the word I and when we are talking to other people we say the word you.

Daily routines and play provide excellent learning opportunities. Use them to reinforce the target pronouns. Some suggestions are listed below.



Activities

Tea Party

Have a tea party and encourage your child to chat about the pretend food, e.g. 'I would like some juice. Would you like some juice too?' or 'Oh, I see you are having orange juice right now, but I would like some water please.'



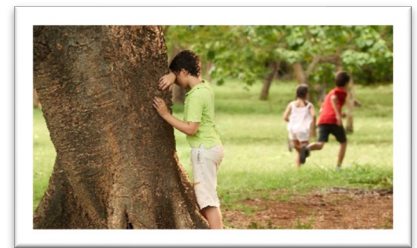
Hide and Go Seek

'Where are you?'

'Are you in here?'

'I can see you'.

'I found you'.



Understanding and using pronouns:

I, You and We

We know that pronouns are words that replace the name of a person. The word we is used to replace the name of a group of people, including the speaker, e.g.

- 'We wish you a happy birthday!', or
- 'We are all tired now after skipping'.
- How you can help
- Set up a pretend tea party
- Gather together cups, plates, plastic cutlery, foods, pretend kettle and teapot, etc.
- Playhouse, e.g. 'We want to go to the party now. We want some cake'
- Set up situations where you can use I, you and we. Then ask a question, e.g.
 - Adult: 'I am putting on my coat. What are you and Mary doing, Paul?'
 - Child: 'We are putting on our coats.'

Activities

Use gestures as necessary, e.g. point to yourself when saying I, Point to your child when saying you. Point to both of you, when saying we.

Take photos of your child enjoying familiar activities, such as riding a bike, shopping, eating dinner. Encourage your child to describe the pictures, using I, or we.

Encourage role-play using the pronouns. Try including teddy or another toy. You can both ask questions: 'Barney, what do you want to eat?', Monkey says, 'We would like bananas!'

