

Pronouns

Pronouns are the words we use to refer to ourselves and other people. The first pronouns that children learn are 'me', 'mine', 'you' and 'yours'. They then learn 'I', 'he', 'she', 'it', 'his' and 'hers'. And finally they learn 'we', 'they', 'theirs' and 'us'. Pronouns are difficult to learn as they change depending on who is talking. Children need to hear pronouns being used frequently and in a variety of contexts in order to learn the correct pattern of pronoun use.

Ideas for home

- ◆ Use 'I', rather than 'mummy' or 'daddy', when referring to yourself (e.g. "I want a drink" not "mummy wants a drink").
- ◆ Point to who you are referring to when using pronouns. This helps your child realise that 'me' refers to the person who is talking and 'you' is the person who is listening.
- ◆ Use simple and repetitive sentences such as "I like dogs. What animal do you like?"
- ◆ Puppets are also great when teaching pronouns. They enable you to model 'me' and 'you' in a natural context while engaging your child.
- ◆ Sing songs that involve pronouns such as 'There's a Monster in my Garden', 'If You're Happy and You Know it'
- ◆ Play turn-taking games and use the phrases "my turn" and "your turn" over and over. After a while ask "who's turn?" and wait for your child to respond.

Ideas for turn-taking games include:

- Simple games like memory and Uno
- Jigsaw Puzzles
- Drawing
- Ball games
- Hide and Seek
- Puppets

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Key-word Signs

Using signs aids understanding by giving your child a visual cue. Remember to get your child's attention before you speak to them.

- Always say the word you are signing
- Only sign key-words
- Use signs all the time



I/ME - Point to self using dominant index finger.



YOU - Point dominant index finger forward or toward person concerned.



MY/MINE - Place dominant fist on chest, palm in.



YOUR/YOURS - Dominant hand in fist, palm out. Move forward towards person or object.

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