

# 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

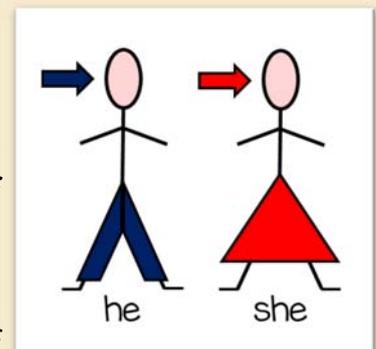
### How you can help

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'.*

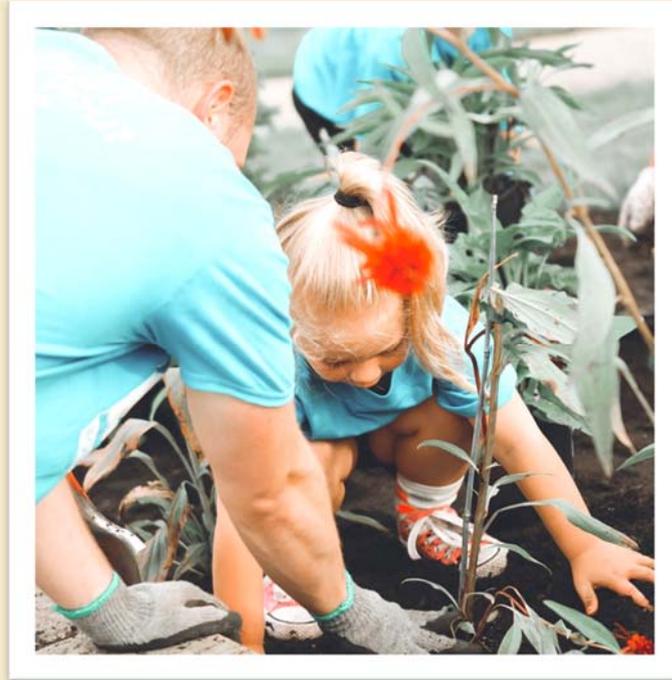


### Activities

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.
- Play house, 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, Pau?'*

**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!'*

