

Other things to try: 7b

Understanding pronouns: 'they' and 'their'



Why is this important?

The development of pronouns is important in children's ability to increase the complexity of sentences. It is a further step up the ladder of grammatical understanding and use.

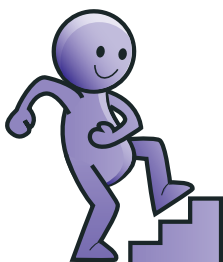
What to do: 'they'

- Gather together three toys (e.g. teddy, Dora and Bob the Builder). Put two toys together and keep the other one separate.
- Gather together some objects (e.g. cup, brush, book, pencil).
- Ask the child to perform some actions, e.g.
 - ★ 'They are jumping.'
 - ★ 'He is writing.'
 - ★ 'They are drinking.'

What to do: 'their'

- Gather together two similar toys – they need to have similar body parts (e.g. not a dog vs. person) and clothed if possible. Alternatively find two pictures of people (a male/female contrast works best) and cut them out.
- Ask the child to find 'their' or 'his/her' body parts/clothes, e.g.
 - ★ 'Find *their* coats.'
 - ★ 'Find *his* hat.'
 - ★ 'Find *their* feet.'
 - ★ 'Find *her* hand.'

N.B. If the child responds correctly, as always give praise. If the child finds it difficult repeat the question, guide the child's hand to select the appropriate toy/s, repeating the pronoun.



Step up

- Ask the child to find some characters in a book and say what 'they' are doing or talk about 'their' possessions.

Step down

- Look through books talking about what 'they' are doing and about 'their' possessions, e.g.
 - ★ 'Look, those boys are wearing *their* hats.'
 - ★ 'They are playing football.'
- Revise 'he'/'she' and 'his'/'hers'.
- Include some of the 'he'/'she' tasks tackled earlier.

