



Language Learning Tip for Home - Ideas on How You Can Help Your Child Use Correct Grammar

What is Grammar?

Grammar: The rules for putting words together to make phrases and sentences. It involves the parts of speech such as verb tense (e.g., danced, dance, will dance), pronouns (e.g., he, she, me, I), and prepositions (e.g., on, in, under).

Tips and Activities You Can Try With Your Child

Tip:

Model correct grammar and emphasize difficult patterns.

Repeat what your child says in error and say it correctly. It is not necessary to have your child repeat the correct form. It is important that your child hears the correct form.

Example:

Child: "I runned home for lunch."

Adult: "Really, you ran home?"

Activity:

Read books and model in everyday situations.

Emphasize the correct form in your own speech. Talk about what you are doing and comment on what your child is doing. Children learn new words and sentence structure from listening to books being read aloud. Read books and discuss what happened in the book.

Tip:

Give your child choices

Model correct and incorrect form and have your child choose which form sounds better.

Example:

Child: "Me went home."

Adult: "Hmmm. 'Me went home', or 'I went home'. Which sounds better?"

Activity:

Play "I Spy"

"I Spy" targets "I" for those children using "me" in the subject position.

Tip:

Repeat and Emphasize.

Select a grammatical form that your child often uses in error. Repeat and emphasize the correct form many times during the day.

Example:

Child: "He went swimming."

*Adult: "Oh, **she** went swimming and then **she** ate lunch."*

Activity:

Play a dressing game.

Ask your child "Who needs this shirt? Does **he** need it, or does **she** need it?"

