

## Developing the Use of Pronouns: he, she, they

### Useful materials:

Pictures of boys, girls, men, women  
Verb pictures – pictures of people doing different actions  
Toy people of different genders

- Sort pictures of boys/girls, men/women (e.g. cut from magazines) into two piles. Label the 'he' pile with a picture of a boy and the 'she' pile with a picture of a girl. Check understanding by asking the child to point to '**He** is jumping. **She** is smiling'. Try role reversal in this activity. Get the child to be the teacher and give you instructions of who to point to.
- Introduce the concepts first, e.g. '**he** is a boy/man (while pointing to a boy/man) and **she** is a girl (while pointing to a girl/woman). Repeat as many times throughout the games/activities as you think the child needs, in order to learn the concepts.



- Use pictures of people doing something and give choices, e.g. 'Is it a girl or is it a boy? Is it **he** is swimming or **she** is swimming'.
- Model pronouns when looking at books and during everyday activities, e.g. '**She** is sleeping, **he** is running'.
- Play barrier games – where there is a screen between you and the child, so you can't see which the picture the child is looking at. Give the child a mix of pictures of people doing things, and ask the child to choose a picture of a boy/girl and then ask them to describe the picture while you draw it. Model the type of sentences you want the child to use, e.g. 'You could say... **she** is wearing a hat'.
- Make a short picture/photo story book together about the child. Then talk about the pictures, e.g. 'I am boy/girl. I am \_\_\_ years old. This is my mum. **She** has long hair. This is my dad. **He** has brown eyes.

- Use these same activities to develop 'they' when the child is confident with using 'he' and 'she'.

