

## Confusion with pronouns “He” /”She”

Sometimes, children with language difficulties may confuse he/she pronouns. They may call everyone “she” or “he”, or may say “her/him/his” instead.



Here are some steps to help your child with this:

### 1. Model:

- If your child uses the wrong pronoun, model back the correct answer without pointing out the mistake. Rephrase in agreement – “Yes you’re right, SHE is sleeping”.

### 2. Knowing the difference between male and female:

- Start with pictures in magazines/books and make sure your child knows the difference between a boy and a girl. Ask “Show me the boy” or “Show me the girl?”

### 3. Using ‘he/she’ in a phrase/sentence:

- Get two pages; have a picture of a girl on one page and a boy on the other.
- Using any object, e.g. a banana, point to the picture of the boy/girl and ask “Who wants the banana?”
- Model the answer for your child the answer “He wants it” while pointing to the picture of the boy or “She wants it”, while pointing to the picture of the girl.
- Extend this activity by using pictures of girls and boys completing actions e.g. She is riding her bike. He is eating an apple

### 4. Practice using storybooks

- When reading stories to your child, ask them to retell what a male or female character did or answer short questions requiring “he” or “she” in the answer e.g. Was she riding the bicycle? “No, he was”



For more resources and games on supporting pronoun knowledge go to:

<https://www.speakingofspeech.com/material/view-materials>; <https://www.twinkl.ie/>