

Grammar Activity ideas for Nursery children

It is important to be improving your grammar knowledge each day, so here are some different activities that you could use to help you. You might want to choose a different activity each night, or you could try them and find the one that works best for you.

What's in my bucket?

Use a bucket, or a picture of a bucket, as a visual prompt and model a sentence using alliterative adjectives. 'My bucket is full of slimy slugs!' 'My bucket of full of glittering gold!'

Ask children to contribute their own ideas, encouraging the use of full sentences and celebrating the use of alliterative adjectives – the sillier the better!

What are you doing?

During outings and in the environment; expand range of known verbs during P.E. and other play activities e.g. hopping, skipping, curling, weaving

Adding adjectives

Draw a simple picture on a piece of paper or use chalk outside, for example, a cat. Ask children to first name the parts of the cat: paws, whiskers, tail etc., and then to contribute adjectives to describe the cat in more detail. 'She has sharp claws.' 'She has bright green eyes.' 'She has a fluffy tail.' Give children the opportunity to add their detail to the image.

Letter shapes

Choose a letter from your child's name. Encourage your child to make the shape of the letter using sticks, leaves or stones outside, or if you're inside, use objects from home such as pasta, toy cars or bricks.

Finish my sentence

Offer children an oral sentence starter with a conjunction, and then ask them to complete your sentence before repeating the whole sentence aloud. 'I am furious because ...' 'I love apples but ...' 'I am frightened of monsters and ...'

Listen out for – and celebrate – children using conjunctions independently.

Grammar Activity ideas for Reception children

It is important to be improving your grammar knowledge each day, so here are some different activities that you could use to help you. You might want to choose a different activity each night, or you could try them and find the one that works best for you.

How could I...?

When preparing for lunch, model the use of adverbs to children: 'Today, I shall eat my lunch hungrily!'

Encourage children to answer in full sentences, offering them a starter prompt if necessary. Use the same activity in different contexts. 'How could you walk to the hall today?' (quickly, slowly, happily) 'How could you put your coat on today?'

Guess who?

Use higher-order vocabulary to describe a member of the class, or a character linked to children's interests. 'She is powerful, icy and wears a glittering dress. Guess who?' 'When he is furious, he transforms into an enormous, green monster. Guess who?'

Photographs or other visual cues can be used to support children with additional needs.

Say more!

Give children a starter sentence, and then go around the group, encouraging children to change one word each. 'I love my new toy.' 'I love my new dog.' 'I love my beautiful dog.' 'I cuddle my beautiful dog.'

Grandpa's shopping list

Challenge children to add alliterative nouns and adjectives to the starter sentence: 'Grandpa went shopping and he bought ... crumbly cookies / scarlet strawberries / fresh fish ...' As a challenge, children could be encouraged to include previous items on the list in order to develop their memory skills.

Visual cues or objects could support children with additional needs.

