



THE READING HOUSE



Mine and Yours

A simple, fun way to learn about possession.

Supplies: Scrap paper; Pencils or Crayons; Tape; Storybook

Preparation: None

Using a current book your child is reading, locate examples of possession within the text, such as: “Sarah’s ideas,” “Grace’s lacrosse shirt,” “Vermont’s mountains,” etc. Explain that the purpose of the apostrophe punctuation mark with the letter “s” is to show that the object belongs to that person or place.

Encourage your child or tutoring student to walk around her house and identify some of the objects and who owns them. Have her write the person’s name (with the apostrophe “s”) and the object name on a piece of paper. Tape it to the object (as long as the tape won’t damage the object in any way). Do this for a few minutes to make sure the concept is understood.

Examples:

Dad’s golf clubs

Dan’s TV

Julie’s piano


Showing possession with words that end in “s” such as class, Wes, or Texas can be done by adding an apostrophe only, or an “apostrophe s.” Both methods are acceptable but it’s best to be consistent throughout your writing and teaching.

Examples:

Wes’s skateboard or Wes’ skateboard

Texas’s weather or Texas’ weather

Class’s books or class’ books

 This is a great activity to do on one of the first days of school to help your students (and you) learn each other’s names. Make sure they label something of their own as well!