

From: Applied Grammar <info@applied-grammar.com>

Subject: Applied Grammar April 2011 Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

The greenhouse is resplendent with tomato plants, cabbages, broccoli, eggplant, different kinds of squashes, onions, and various herbs. Now if the rain would stop for a day or two, we could get the garden tilled and some of the plants planted. It is such fun to plant seeds and watch them grow.

Once in the classroom, after having lamented the fact that I didn't have the time to work on my garden, one of my students advised me. "Mrs. Brubaker," he said, "just think of us as your flowers. You take care of us, and help us to grow. We can be your garden."

As you near the end of the "school year" and the weather (hopefully) is getting nicer, remember that your every action is planting seeds in your children. What you deem important or unimportant will someday be repeated in your children. Bob and I have seen our children, with the help of God's redemption, repeat many of our "good qualities."

We are so thankful for God's help in our raising of our children and have seen first hand the redemption of the generations. Please be encouraged that all of your hard work will indeed pay off.

Thank you to all who have signed up to receive our newsletters. If there are any specific subjects you would like me to address, please feel free to contact us at info@applied-grammar.com.

Sincerely,
Bob and Gail

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News & Events

Hear ye, Hear ye!

WE have registered for the HOME convention in Maine, the Midwest Home School Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, the CHAP convention in Pennsylvania, and the Southeast Home School Expo in Atlanta, Georgia. We will also be going to Mobile, Alabama and Enoch in New Jersey.

The High School Level is complete, and we are very excited to find out how well you like it. Please look for us at a convention near you, so you can check it out. If we are not at a convention near you, and you would like to have a copy to look at for a limited amount of time, please check with us. We can figure out a way for you to work with a group to check out our materials.

You might also want to [sign up](#)

for e-tutoring so that your student gets the benefit of having someone new edit and correct their work, as well as give them written assignments.

The next project is Applied Grammar especially for children in the Autistic Spectrum. The name we chose was already taken, so we are currently trying to come up with another name for it.

Featured Articles

More Writing Strategies



To help your child answer essay questions, have your child act out the sequence. Have them pretend to be a water molecule moving faster as they warm up. Have them pretend to go through the cycle. You can do the same thing with just about any sequence of events. Do the acting out just as you would a very short little play. Have them create the props that you might need. After acting it out a few times they will have an easier time actually answering the question.

What Can I Do with My Toddler?

While you are teaching your older children, you **want** your toddler to be busy occupying himself/ herself. But what sometimes happens is that your toddler competes for attention. What can you do to help this situation? Here are a few suggestions for you to try. Toddlers are really good at knowing what gets Mom's attention, so you have to be a little tricky. As my mom used to say, "You have to get up really early in the morning to get ahead of them."

1. Keep a few special activities on hand exclusively for those times when you want your toddler to be occupied. These should be times that are pretty regular- but not so regular that they get "old."
2. This would mean that when you do Spelling with your older student, your toddler can look forward to _____. Predictability is helpful.
3. Finding what YOUR child loves is important. I will list a few that might help you get started with a list of things that you can have handy to pull out in a pinch.
4. Large blocks of covered foam: These can be made with old foam cushions, or pieces of foam that you buy. They can be jumped on, or stacked to make towers, or placed to make a fort.

5. Milk or juice carton blocks: Collect and wash out your half gallon juice and milk containers. Cut and fold and duct tape the pouring ends so that they are flat. Keep them in large garbage bags in the basement or the garage. Bring them inside to use to make castles, forts, barns, or lay them out to make pretend boats.
6. Teaching or exercise videos for children.
7. Boxes which have had the tops and bottoms removed: Place cardboard head lights on the front. Maybe leave one of the flaps on for a wind shield. Your toddler can pretend it is a car by standing in the box and holding it up and running or walking to make it go. It can also be a boat.
8. Get a stick and tie a string to one end. On the free end of the string tie a magnet. Make fish out of paper plates- color the fish- then glue magnets or place paper clips on them. Show your toddler how to pretend to be in the boat and fish for the fish that have been sprinkled around the boat.
9. Hide little plastic toys in a dish pan filled with rice. Allow your toddler to **sit on the floor next to you** and search in the rice with his hands to find all the little treasures.
10. Teach you toddler how to play camping. Create a tent with a blanket and some chairs.
11. In my toddler preschool, we had a dishpan of all different kinds of buttons. Some of my students loved to explore the button bin looking for special buttons. (Of course, they will need to be where you can watch them with this one just like the rice activity)



It has been said that learning is fun, but can this principle be applied to the learning of grammar? As far as I'm concerned, it can since I met Mrs. Brubaker and discovered Applied Grammar. I'm a home schooling mother of seven children and a Pennsylvania certified teacher. Applied Grammar makes teaching and learning grammar a joy. It's simple yet comprehensive and wonderfully complements any home school approach & setting. Applied Grammar empowers students to become better writers by applying what they've learned about grammar to their own writing in all school subjects and in personal writing. It's easy to use and requires little preparation, which is a real blessing when you are a busy wife and mother. Mrs. Brubaker is wonderful and supportive. I highly recommend Applied Grammar...and Mrs. Brubaker!