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Dear Friends,

We had a wonderful Christmas with the children and grandchildren. Bob created a marvelous riding tractor for Josiah. We made a wonderful manger scene out of clay with the help of Aunt Lea and Uncle Dan. And Sylvie had a great time getting to know her cousins Anna, Lydia, Josiah and Isaiah, who have returned from a time in Africa.

We have so much to look forward to as we prepare for the convention season. This weekend I should be confirming our schedule which we will post on the next newsletter. One of the things we are doing is asking if anyone would like to host us while we are in their neck of the woods. We would then give them a free set of Applied Grammar in total, or a check for \$100.00. This way we can help you off-set some of your expenses, and you can help us avoid the high hotel fees. If you like our newsletter, please introduce us to a friend.

We are looking forward to meeting you. Come stop by our booth sometime and say hello.

Sincerely,
Gail and Bob Brubaker
Applied Grammar

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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. I'll keep you informed as we add more.

We will not be able to attend SETHSA, in Houston, Texas this year because my student, Michael, will be graduating on that weekend, and I wouldn't miss that for anything.

The High School level is complete, and I am in the process of typing it. This should be done by the end of this month, and then our printing of the books for this year will begin.

To ensure that you know



when the High School Level is available, sign up to continue to receive our E-Newsletter. 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 called Language Links. Stay tuned for more information.

Featured Article

Why do Kids Struggle with Writing? (Continued from December)



Pulling Words from Memory on Demand

Children have two lists of vocabulary. they have vocabulary that they understand when they hear the words, and they have vocabulary that they use. The words that they use are part of the lists that they understand, but there are words that they understand, but do not use.

When children compose a written work, they will sometimes not be able to recall a word that they want and will end up settling for other words that are not very satisfying to them. As they are writing, sometimes their wonderful thoughts are forgotten as they focus on spelling, or remembering how to make the letters, or trying to remember the exact work that they want. These problems can lead to such frustration that the children hate to even begin a written assignment. The following ideas are some that may help you as you encourage your child to write.

1. Word cards are a great way to keep a list of words that your children are trying to incorporate into their working vocabulary. (See Applied Grammar's color coded word cards) As they are composing, they can go to the part of speech that they need and look through for words that could apply to their sentence. This reinforces the concept of grammar as a tool for writing, helps them to increase their working vocabulary, and

encourages them to use resources available to decrease their frustration with word recall.

2. It might help them to record their wonderful thoughts and ideas so that if they do forget them, they can revisit them on the taped materials.

3. Continuing to keep records of, and adding new words to the word cards will help them incorporate new words into their writing.

4. Playing word games will sharpen word recall. The following games will help:

- a. Scrabble
- b. Perquackey
- c. Take letter tiles from scrabble and just try to make as many words from them as possible.
- d. Boggle
- e. Cross word puzzles

In next month's newsletter I will be discussing the physical aspects of writing.

Success with tutoring with Mrs. Brubaker

