



WIN a 25 dollar gift certificate to Kohls or Target; your choice when Applied Grammar gets to the first 100 likes on our facebook page.

Dear Friends,

Waiting... waiting! Waiting is so hard to do! We wait for the weather to change, we wait for seeds to germinate, we wait for family to gather, we wait for circumstances to get better.

We wait for our students to succeed, to learn, to grasp the new concept. We wait and anticipate the days when our children are independent and successful adults. We wait for others to understand our view of the world and events.

Caring about and waiting for good things to happen, full of patience, joy, and contentedness; knowing that all things are from Him, through Him and for Him is our goal. We can rest assured that surely (really, really) goodness and mercy shall

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News & Events

Conventions this year include:

[LEAH](#): March 17th, Long Island, NY

[Midwest Home-school Convention](#):

Cincinnati, Ohio; April 4-6

[CHAP](#): Harrisburg, PA; May 10-11

If you would like to get together with a group of parents to look at and touch Applied Grammar, give me a call and we will set up a time to send you the materials to look at and do a

follow us all the days of our lives when we trust in Him.

Skype question and answer time.

Be encouraged my fellow travelers. Our God is watching over you.

Sincerely,
Bob and Gail

You can find past copies of the newsletter [here](#).

We also have a [page](#) with links to articles that we find interesting.

Featured Article

Rivalry



When I was in First Grade, there was a little girl with red hair named Heather. She and I had a rivalry going about who could get their desk up next to the teacher's desk. We worked very hard to get the teacher to put our desks up next to hers. Whichever one of us got our desk up next to the teacher's won. It never dawned on me until years later when I was a teacher, that probably our desks were not placed next to the teacher's desk because she was particularly fond of us! And then it dawned upon me, that our children do not know what effect they have on us with their incessant vying for attention. When they succeed, they just believe that you wanted to be with them and shower them with that attention.

So what happens when all of the attention is negative attention? How do we help our children to be secure in the love that we have for them? How do we help them to be cheering for their own brothers and sisters, allowing parents to shower attention on them? How do we teach them that when we give attention to one, it does not mean that we are unhappy with the other?

In the classroom, this can happen just like at home, so it is important to incorporate family rituals of recognition of the members of the family. It is also important that there be consequences for treating those in the family less than you would a stranger or a friend. However, the consequences need to be done in a way that is fair and measured so that as we teach, we do not end up favoring one over the other.

Favoring one child over another is the easiest way to create more intense rivalry. Overlooking the offenses of one, while coming down hard on another is another way of favoring. Comparing behaviors is one more way.

Here are some strategies for combating rivalry in the family. And as I give these strategies, I am aware that I was not able to do this to the degree that I would have liked with my own children. This is one of the areas in which I wish I had been better able to manage.

1. Celebrate each other. We recently went to a grandson's birthday, and the children decorated the house for the

birthday with colored pictures of birds and hanging green paper and blue streamers. It was a great way for all of the children to give special attention to their brother.

2. Celebrate and reward when your children support their siblings. Teach them ways to be supportive. Teach them to look out for the interests and feelings of the others. Teach them to not leave a sister or brother out. Help them to see the world through their siblings eyes through stories; real or made up.

3. At school, I would often model the behavior I wanted in the children. When I was doing a good job, instead of yelling for a child to hurry, I would say, "Can someone help our friend, because we are all worthy of being helped." Or, "Let's wait for our friend to think this through before he answers, because we are all worth waiting for."

4. There were times when I had children write encouraging notes to each other when they saw someone doing something great for someone else. This helped them to focus on a particular type of kindness for the day. I would say something like: "If you see one of your classmates decide to be kind in a situation where it would be easy to be mean, I want you to write a thank you note to that person and quietly put it on their desk." I would also do it so that no one got over looked.

5. There were also times when I would fine someone for being unkind. This fine was some way that he/she had to be kind to the person to make up for his/her meanness. He/she had to apologize, but the meanness cost them something that was given to the victim. It was either a token that we had been collecting to earn rewards, or he/she had to do their job for the victim for three days. In any event, the abuser had to pay the victim in time or some concrete way, so that the abuser lost and the victim was compensated for his/her hurt. This helps the mean one to think twice about being mean because it will ultimately bring good to the one he/she wanted to hurt. It will also help the child to learn to atone for their wrong doing.

6. We also talked about how to be kind and civil to those with whom you disagree in order for peace to reign in the classroom. We role played how to handle situations in which one would maybe wish they could be mean because of feelings of jealousy or superiority. Children love to discuss these things because they are often very confused about how to do the "right" thing.

Keep on modeling love as you have been. Do not get tired of it, because when your children are all grown up and you watch them love their spouses well and their children well, it will bring you such a wonderful sense of God's faithfulness through all of your endeavors to teach your children the right way to live.

ON-LINE SHOPPING is available on our website.

Please call us if you have questions.

(717) 432-4890

We are continuing to work on the Language Lessons for Autistic children. There are a lot of plans for puppets, lessons on DVD, songs for everyday vocabulary and some resource materials for non verbal children. Creating all of the pieces and putting them together will take some time. I can't wait to pull it all together and get it out to you.