



# Talking Matters

[www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au) Ph: 8255 7137  
 Helping your child to reach their potential



## Goal: To teach your child to use the word 'is' correctly

The word 'is', is amongst the earliest of the grammatical words a child will begin to use. Children will generally learn its full form 'is', before they use its contracted form 's' for example: "the dog is jumping" contracted form: "the dog's jumping". Don't be concerned if your child uses only the contracted form as this is a more natural way of using the word 'is'.

### Activities to increase your child's use of 'is':

Many children will begin stringing two words together without the use of 'is' for example: "me running". By encouraging your child to use the word 'is' your child will begin to form sentences better sentences, for example: "me is running". At this early stage you don't need to worry about the use of "me" instead of "I" as your child will learn this later (3 – 3½ years). Also make sure you only concentrate on one new grammar structure at a time so your child learns it as quickly as possible without getting too confused.

Use the following technique to increase your child's use of 'is':

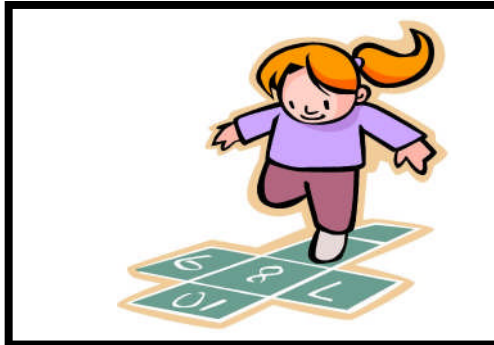
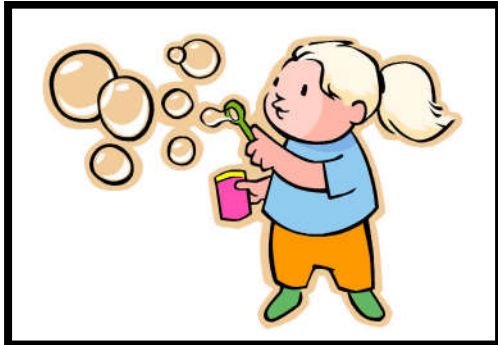
- **Recasting the correct form** – If your child is leaving out the word 'is', repeat (recast) the correct way of saying it for them without criticising what they have said.  
 e.g. Child: "The dog jumping"  
 Adult: "The dog is jumping"  
 Ensure you give lots of repetitions and emphasize the correct word e.g.  
 Adult: "The dog is jumping over the fence, he is jumping the fence."

Use this technique in the following activities:

- **Books and pictures:**  
 Choose a book to read with your child, or a picture to describe and pick out things about the picture/book you can talk about. Emphasize the use of the word 'is' e.g. "Look the bird is in the tree", "The lady is making a cake".
- **Photographs/ action pictures:**  
 Use family photo graphs or pictures out of a magazine of people doing things (actions) and talk about them e.g. "Look, mum is jumping" "Your sister is skipping".
- **Name that sound:**  
 Use tapes of animal sounds, or musical instruments and ask your child to 'name that sound' e.g. Adult: "What is making that sound?" Child "A pig is



# Using "is" to describe pictures



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