



How To Help Your Child Develop Pragmatic Language Skills



Pragmatics means using language appropriately in social situations. The development of pragmatic skills is simply the development of language that is appropriate to a situation and in everyday conversation. We use pragmatic skills in three major ways:

1. We use language for different purposes, such as in greeting, informing, demanding, requesting, and promising.
2. We adapt or change our language in accordance with the needs or expectations of the listener or situation.
3. We follow conversational rules, such as rules for taking turns in conversations, staying on the topic, and rephrasing when misunderstood. There are also rules for appropriate nonverbal behavior in conversation, including distance between speaker and listener, facial expressions, and eye contact.



It is not unusual for children to occasionally have some pragmatic problems. However, if problems using correct social language occur frequently or seem inappropriate considering your child's age, a pragmatic disorder may exist. Usually pragmatic disorders of language are accompanied by other problems in language development. If you have any concerns about your child's development of language, you should contact a speech-language pathologist.





here are a lot of activities you can do to promote social language. It is est to use real-life situations, toys, books, or activities that simulate real onversations. Activities should vary depending on the chronological and evelopmental age of your child. Here are a few activities you can try:

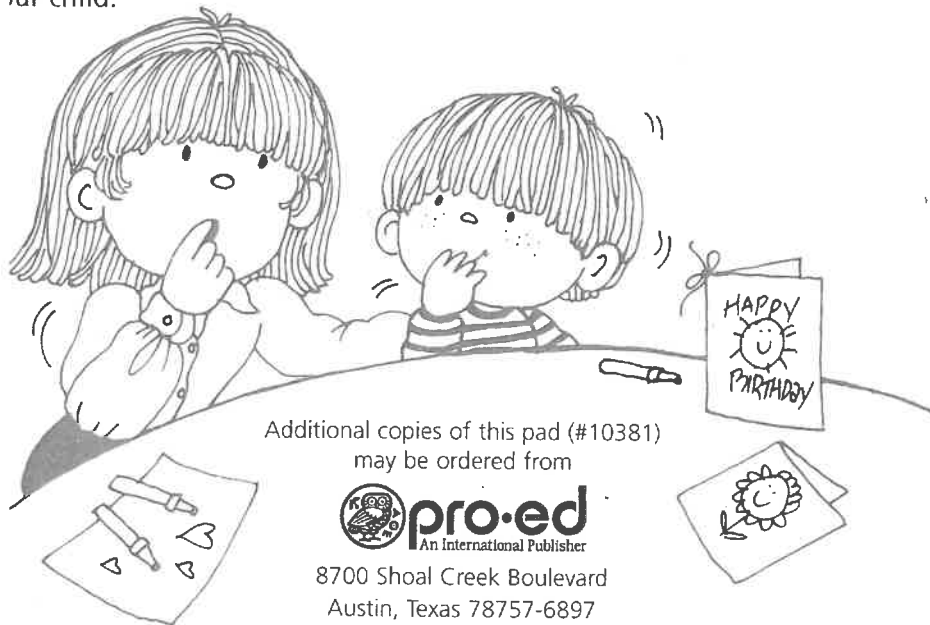
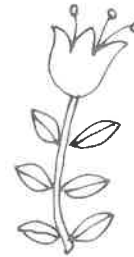
Practice correct greetings for different individuals: male versus female, doctor versus nondoctor, older adults versus younger individuals.

Practice requesting items: requesting politely versus impolitely, demanding versus suggesting. Discuss the inappropriateness of a child's demanding that an adult do something.

Practice situational language: talking quietly versus loudly in a movie theater or church, talking differently in a classroom than at home. Discuss why it is important to stay on topic while telling a story. Practice retelling a story or talking about certain topics.

Practice nonverbal signals used in language: frowning while talking versus smiling while talking, talking to someone who is in your face versus across the room.

ere are many more activities you can use to practice pragmatic language. s easy to make up other activities as your child grows and is ready for ore. Have fun with these activities, and remember to enjoy talking with ur child.



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