Grammar Checklist — add a little more each year

Parts of Speech Ideas
Circle or underline the ones in your copywork.
Write down all the ones on a page in your current reading book.
Write all the ones you can in 2 minutes.
Write a story with as many of them as possible.
Tell a story with general nouns (for example) and your child retells it with specific nouns.
Or for example, you tell a very short story in the past and your child tells it in the future.
Tell a story with no adjectives and your child inserts them. (How long and complicated can you make your adjectives?)
Tell a story and stop for your child to insert the next word (like mad libs). You say, “One day I was” then stop and ask for a verb. Then you can start again and insert it. Keep going as long as you like.
Charades — and the only verbal clue you are allowed to give is the part of speech
Lots of online games, lapbooks, lesson plan ideas

Words
___ What is a noun — person, place or thing
___ Common nouns — “lowercase nouns”
___ Proper nouns — “uppercase nouns”
___ Specific nouns — lemonade as opposed to drink, rose as opposed to flower
___ Gerunds (ing words as nouns, Running is a great way to exercise.)
___ Pronouns (personal: I, you; objective: him, her; possessive: his; reflexive: myself)
___ Pronouns (demonstrative: that, those; indefinite: all, few; relative: who, which, whose)
___ Action verbs
___ Past tense
___ Future tense
___ Being verbs (am, is, are, was, were, will be, has been, had been, have been, become, became) — can you put it to a tune? Try Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
___ Linking verbs (am helping)
___ Specific verbs — tiptoed instead of walked, snickered instead of laughed
___ Adjective (describes a noun)
___ Numbers as adjectives
___ Articles as adjectives (a, an, the)
___ Part participles as adjectives (fallen tree, spilled drink)
___ Adjectival phrases (coarsely ground coffee)
___ Appositives (the boy, who lives in the blue house, is…)
___ Punctuating adjectives (put a comma where you could put an “and” — soft and furry animals—soft, furry animals; put hyphens in a list of words being used as one adjective like seven-year-old boy or made-for-stomping-in-puddles boots or do-it-yourself books
___ Adverbs (describes a verb—easiest to recognize are the –ly verbs)
___ Non-ly adverbs — often, every day, before dawn, now, never
___ Replacing adverbs with specific verbs (walked quickly—shot, jogged, dashed, hustled)
___ Adverbial phrases (he went TO SEE HER, he lived DURING THE WAR)
___ Prepositions (positional words—over, under, around, through, in, on, by, alongside…)
___ Prepositional phrases (over the creek, under the bridge, around the bend…)
___ Objects of prepositions (from above: creek, bridge, bend)
___ Direct Objects (take the JOB, she sang a SONG)
___ Indirect Objects (give ME the book, send the letter to HER)
**Sentences**

Ideas: Write! Write a story of only simple sentences. Can you write a dialog of only one-word sentences? Write a story with only compound sentences. You tell the first half of the sentence and your child completes it with a conjunction and the rest of the sentence.

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Subject / Predicate  The subject is everyone doing the action and the predicate is everything related to the action. The dog and the boy went over the bridge and saw a snake on the other side. The boy and the dog are the subject and the rest is the predicate. A subject and predicate combination make up a sentence. This type of sentence is a simple sentence. (There are exceptions. Stop! Here the subject is understood. You could even have a sentence in a book that is just…”Me.” In an answer to a question for instance. But in general…)

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While we’re on exceptions to the whole what’s a sentence thing…

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Interjections  (Wow! Ah! Uh….for example)

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Imperatives  (commands— Go!)

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Types of Sentences

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Conjunctions (and, but, or)

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Compound Sentences (two simple sentences put together with a comma and a conjunction.

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Coordinating Conjunctions (because, although)

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Dependent Clauses (subject/predicate combo that isn't a sentence)

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Complex Sentences (dependent clause + an independent clause)

**Punctuation**

Ideas: Write something for publication (even if just a family newsletter) but this way they will care about editing it. Let them work on layout and everything.  
You write and have them edit (that makes editing more fun—to correct your mom). Or better, let each kid write a story with as many mistakes as possible (but not in spelling—at least on purpose) and then switch papers and let the other correct it.  
Have a dialog with a child while the other children record the dialog (with proper capitalization and punctuation). Or, dialog with yourself acting out two (or three!) people and have your child write it down. Keep it brief!  
Use the websites and premade materials available online. Go online to get the rules.  
(Check out http://homeschoolfreestuff.wordpress.com for websites and materials.)

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periods, exclamation points, question marks

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commas

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quotation marks

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capitalization (we got to fit that in somewhere)

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apostrophe

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colon

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semi-colon

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hyphen

What am I missing?  I’ll figure that out later and fill it in. No problem. We’re always learning.