

Build Your Child's Vocabulary

Why is Vocabulary Important?

We use language to:

- Express our intentions
- Describe our feelings
- Understand the ideas of others

Word knowledge is among the most critical pieces of language development.

Word Knowledge= Successful Readers + Success in School

Small Vocabulary= Problems Learning to Read + Difficulties in School

There is a deep link between conversation and print. Most of our daily conversations draw from a vocabulary bank of no more than 3,000 words, yet the average adult knows upwards of 20,000. That richness comes from print. It is critical that children are exposed to print early on- right from birth! It is important to increase the depth and scope of your child's vocabulary.

How do I Build my Child's Vocabulary?

- Expose your child to print.
- Read aloud to your child.
- Teach children descriptive words, such as wide, narrow, tall, short, tiny, low, high, etc.
- Expose your child to lots of conversation, such as think out loud and talk to your child.
- Be purposeful in introducing new words to your child, such as in the kitchen teach them vocabulary such as- to whisk an egg, use a serving spoon, and test temperature with a thermometer.

- Expose your child to intriguing/difficult words, such as “ridiculous” or “saturated.”
- Change the language of your daily routines, such as say “let’s clean,” “let’s organize,” “let’s collate,” or “let’s arrange.”

Resources:

<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=8100>