



VOCABULARY

The words children must know in order to read, write and communicate.

Beginning readers use what they know about words to make sense of what they're reading. The more words a child knows, the more they are able to understand what they're learning. Here are some ways you can help your child learn more words and build their vocabulary.

Read To Your Child

Research shows that children who read or who are read to at home for just 10 minutes a day can grow their vocabulary substantially.

Talk! Talk! Talk!

A great way to increase your child's vocabulary is to talk to them. Ask your child about their day. Talk to them about what is going on at home. Encourage them to tell you what they're learning at school. Sprinkle in some interesting words and build on words you've used in the past.

Make Up Stories

Make up a story while you're riding in the car and take turns adding to the story. Try to make it funny or spooky.

Point Out Relationships Between Words

Point out related words and show how they have similar spellings and meanings. For example, talk about how the word "knowledge" relates to the word "know."

Build On Words They Know

Start with a simple word your child knows like "pop," and then ask your child to come up with other words that include "pop" such as "popcorn," "popsicle," "popped," "population."

Break Words Down Into Pieces, Parts

Many words are made up of parts – prefixes and suffixes – and they are a great way of helping children learn new words. For example, bi- and trip are parts of many words children know and use. Highlight some like bicycle and bicep and ask your child to think of more.

Use Kid-Friendly Definitions

When you share new words, use simple definitions. For example, "Enormous means something that is really, really big. Find ways to relate that word to their everyday life. "That watermelon we bought at the grocery store was enormous." Then, ask them to use the word. "What enormous thing can you think of?"

