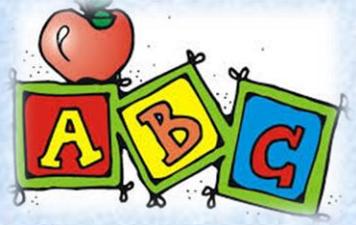


Helpful Reading Tips Pre-K through Grade 2

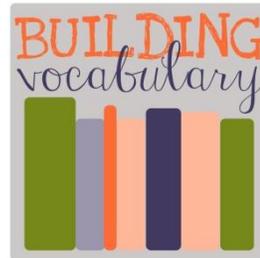


Tip #1: Talk with your child

Talking with your child allows them to practice oral language. Oral language consists of many components of language. It includes vocabulary, phonology, grammar, morphology, discourse, and pragmatics. In this newsletter we will take a closer look at **vocabulary**.

ORAL Language

Supporting Early Literacy



The chart below indicates the growth in vocabulary words for children between the ages of 1 – 8.

Oral Language

Oral language lays the foundation for the reading and writing skills children will develop as they progress through school.

To define some terminology:

Phonology – speech sounds in language

Grammar – how words are used in language

Morphology – the structure of words

Discourse – a conversation

Pragmatics – language that is not directly spoken, but implied

(Click on link below for more information.)

[Oral Language](#)

Age	Vocabulary Growth
1 – 1 1/2	Toddlers develop around a 20-word vocabulary
2	By the time a child is 2, they will have a 200 – 300 word vocabulary
3	Vocabulary grows to be about 900 – 1000 words by age 3
4	The typical 4 year-old child will have about a 1,500 – 1,600 word vocabulary
5	By the time a child enters kindergarten they will have 2,100 – 2,200 word vocabulary
6 - 8	Students in grades 1 through 3 will have between develop a vocabulary between 3000 – 5000 words

(Click on link below for more information.)

[Developing Vocabulary](#)

Vocabulary plays an important part in learning to read.

- ✓ Beginning readers must use the words they hear orally to make sense of the words they see in print.
- ✓ Children who hear more words spoken at home learn more words and enter school with better vocabularies.
- ✓ This larger vocabulary pays off exponentially as a child progresses through school.

How can you help your child increase their vocabulary?

1. **Play-based learning** – Young children learn new vocabulary and build oral language through play. Let your child’s play include activities that they like to do. Play in a pretend kitchen, build with blocks, play with toy cars, dress up or any other play activity.
 - ✓ While your child plays you can talk with them about what they are doing. For example: If your child likes to build with blocks, ask them what they are building. That way you can incorporate language to support their interests. Such as, “What shapes are you using?” “What type of building are you making?” This way you could introduce specific vocabulary about the subject, such as: construction, doors, windows, etc.
2. **Conversation starters** - Be sure to talk to your child throughout day-to-day experiences using language that helps them grow in their vocabulary development.
 - ✓ Whatever the activity, make sure to use specific vocabulary. Often, parents think they need to use simple language, but children tend to understand more than we think.
3. **Interests by theme** – Explore topics that interest your child, that way you can set up learning environments to expand their interests.
 - ✓ For example: If your child has an interest in dinosaurs, provide books, toy dinosaurs and computer research to offer opportunities for additional learning and fun.
4. **Poems and songs** – Interacting with poetry and songs are a great way to provide oral language activities as well as building vocabulary.
 - ✓ Your child will begin to hear rhyming words and will be able to predict the words that are coming next in a song. [Nursery Rhymes](#)

(Click on link below for more information.)

[Vocabulary Development](#)

**Reading tips provided by:
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