

Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the ability to understand and use words to acquire or gain use of and to communicate meaning. A reader acquires vocabulary when he/she associates a specific meaning with a given word when reading or listening. Vocabulary is communicated or expressed when a speaker or writer can produce a specific word for a certain meaning.

Vocabulary knowledge is having the ability to understand the meanings of words that teachers, parents, books, films, and other adults use when communicating.

"Research has shown that children who read even ten minutes a day outside of school experience substantially higher rates of vocabulary growth between second and fifth grade than children who do little or no reading." (Anderson & Nagy, 1992)

Home Ideas:

When Reading:

- Classic stories or books on recommended reading lists
- Focus on story elements (characters, setting, plot or the problem in the story, and the resolution)
- Target 3 new words per story
- Pause for target vocabulary words
- Relate new vocabulary to child's prior experiences
- Repeated readings of stories

Four Ways of teaching Oral Vocabulary:

- *Modeling*: If you cannot use language to explain the meaning of a word, then model or demonstrate its meaning.
- *Synonyms*: If your child knows another word that has the same meaning, then use it to explain the new word. For example: if the unknown word is *fact*, you could use *true* or *real* to teach it.
- *Definitions*: a longer explanation can be used to explain the meaning of a word if the child has the essential language to understand the explanation. Use definitions if a synonym cannot be used and it is too difficult to model. For example: an association is an organized group of people who meet for specific reasons. (PTA, Boy Scouts, etc)
- *Sorting*: For younger children you can have them sort objects into categories such as colors, shapes, foods, animals, position words.

Guess the Word Game

Have your child tell you which word goes with another word. If he/she gets it right, you could give stickers or stars for every correct answer.

1. Which words go with central? *In the center or far away?*
2. Which words go with motion? *Moving around or standing still?*
3. Which words go with patience? *Understanding and calmness or yelling and rebellion?*

Our goal is for your child to develop "Word Awareness". We want your child to be excited about learning new words and to be eager to use more expressive language when speaking or writing.

Please visit the following web-site for additional tips:

<http://reading.uoregon.edu/>