

Activities to Build a Child's Vocabulary at Home

Vocabulary development starts early before children learn to read. Here are some activities parents can do at home for each type of vocabulary:



Listening Vocabulary

Definition: Understanding words when heard in spoken language.

Activity: Look at photos and describe them to your child. Then, ask follow-up questions (who, what, when, where, and how) and give your child time to respond.



Speaking Vocabulary

Definition: Understanding meanings of words when spoken.

Activity: Look at any item around the house, and have your child describe it. Then, ask follow-up questions (who, what, when, where, and how) and give your child time to explain.



Reading Vocabulary

Definition: Knowing meanings of words when reading.

Activity: Find an article or book, and ask your child to find an unfamiliar word. Together, define that word and use it in a sentence.



Writing Vocabulary

Definition: Understanding meanings of words when written.

Activity: Have your child write stories or keep a journal. Your child can also keep a list of new words with explanations and pictures of what each word means.

Make vocabulary fun! Idioms, analogies, tongue twisters, and rhymes can foster vocabulary learning.

For more vocabulary activities, visit improvingliteracy.org.



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