Building Vocabulary

Research shows that children who know and understand lots of different words become better readers. Building a strong “vocabulary” helps children recognize and read written words, and later use them in their writing.

To help your child develop vocabulary:

- Talk to your child, a lot! Research shows that parents who talk to their children more often have children with larger vocabularies, and those children better understand what they read.
- Talk to your child about what is going on around you. Talk about how things work, feelings and ideas. Listen when your child talks to you.
- Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you.
- Read to your child every day. Children’s books have more rare words than everyday conversations. Talk about the stories and the pictures in books.
- Learn together by reading nonfiction books. Help your child pick out information books about the things he or she is interested in.
- When your child talks to you, add more detail to what she says. Expand the conversation and ask lots of questions.

Parents who talk to their children throughout the day are giving them a gift. The language they learn will help them enjoy and understand the world around them and help prepare them to become lifelong learners.

Book of the Month

The Busy Body Book, by Lizzie Rockwell

Bodies are amazing! Bodies are made to move – to jump, twist, run, and think. In this book, the author uses kid language to explain to young children how their muscles, bones, brain, lungs and heart all work together to keep them on the go.

If your child enjoyed this book, check out these other Lizzie Rockwell books about bodies:

Hello Baby!
Good Enough to Eat: A Kid’s Guide to Food and Nutrition

More great books to help your child build vocabulary:

What Do You Do With a Tail Like This? Steve Jenkins
Biggest, Strongest, Fastest, Steve Jenkins
First the Egg, Laura Vaccaro Seeger
Muncha, Muncha, Muncha, Candace Fleming
More fun with *The Busy Body Book*...

**Talk about it...** Here are some great words from the book to talk about with your child:

- incredible
- lightning speed
- collect
- pumps
- deliver
- materials
- survive
- ingredient
- heal

See if you and your child can make new sentences with these words.

**Move and groove...** The beginning pages of this book describe different things to do with your body. Help your child act out these motions. For an added “twist” do the actions to your favorite music!

**Math connection...** Your child is growing quickly! Because “inches” and “feet” may still be confusing, help her find some other ways to measure how tall she is. How many “hands” tall? How many blocks? How many cups? Help her measure herself, and compare some of the different measurements. Then measure a sibling, a parent, or a friend and compare. How many “hands” taller is she than her brother? Once she understands measurement in these familiar units, compare them to inches and feet.

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**Hand Washing Song**

*Sung To: “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”*

I can wash my hands you see,
Wash them clean as clean can be.
Inside, outside, fingers, too
Around my thumbs and then I’m through,
Rinse away the dirt and stains,
Send those germs right down the drain!

Singing this song while washing helps with good hand washing skills. It takes about 30 seconds, which is the amount of time one should take to allow soap to do its job.

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**Brush Your Teeth Song**

*Sung to: “Row, Row Row your Boat”*

Brush, brush, brush your teeth
At least two times a day.
Cleaning, cleaning, cleaning, cleaning,
Fighting tooth decay.
Floss, floss, floss your teeth.
Every single day.
Gently, gently, gently, gently,
Whisking plaque away.
Rinse, rinse, rinse your teeth
Every single day.
Swishing, swishing, swishing, swishing,
Fighting tooth decay.

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What your library can do for you...

Don’t have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Or you can ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!

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