



For grades
K-1

The Bookworm

From your
local library
and Idaho's Read
to Me program

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.

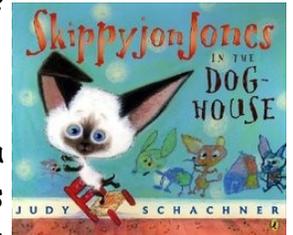
To help your child develop vocabulary:

- 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 or magazines 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 and caregivers 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

Skippyjon Jones in the Doghouse, by Judy Schachner



Skippyjon Jones is a Siamese kitten who thinks he is a Chihuahua. In this story he is sent to his room after drawing on the walls, and has another big "Skippito Friskito" adventure in his closet.

In addition to this book, author Judy Schachner has written four other Skippyjon books:



www.judithbyronschachner.com/

More books to help your child build vocabulary...

Chicken Cheeks, Michael Ian Black

Busy Body Book, Lizzie Rockwell

Muncha, Muncha, Muncha, Candace Fleming

First the Egg, Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Measuring Penny, Loreen Leedy

A Huge Hog is a Big Pig, Francis McCall

Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions from Around the World, Selby Beeler

More fun with *Skippyjon Jones*

All about words... There are some great words to talk about in this story:

Cavorting, mayhem, hulking, lunged, directed... Help your child to understand what some of these words mean. Use a dictionary or thesaurus and help your child find words that mean the same thing. If you don't have a dictionary or thesaurus around the house, visit your library or look on-line.

Where in the world? "Geography" is the study of people, places and locations.

- In the story, Skippyjon travels far away to old Mexico. Help your child find Mexico on a map or globe.

- There are lots of Spanish words in the story: *perrito* (dog), *frijoles* (beans), *¿Por qué?* (why?), *mira* (look), *la casa* (house), *Hola* (hello), *cinco* (five). Can you find others?

- Check out an information book from the library about Mexico and its people.



Song

When Skippyjon sings his song, "Oh, my name is Skippito Friskito," he is singing to the tune of the *Mexican Hat Dance*, or *Jarabe tapatío*.

The song has become a folk dance popular throughout Mexico and the Southwestern United States as a symbol of the national pride and honor of the Mexican people.

You can hear the tune at www.janbrett.com/piggybacks/mexhat.mid



Poem

Daddy Forgets My Name

by Bruce Lansky

My daddy calls me sweetie pie.
He calls me honey bunny.
He also calls me poopsie,
which I think is kind of funny.
My daddy calls me sugarplum,
and also sleepyhead.
My silly dad forgets my name
when he tucks me into bed.

Drop that crayon,
Mr. Doodlepaws!

My name is Skippito
Friskito!



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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