Vocabulary

Vocabulary is knowing the names of things. This is a very important skill for children to have when they are learning to read. Most children enter school knowing between 3,000 and 5,000 words.

Why is it important for children to hear a wide range of words?

Children need to know the meaning of words to understand what they are reading.

When you think about it, you know if you are reading a word correctly if you have heard it before. The more words children hear, the more ready they will be to make connections between sounding out words and knowing they’re pronouncing them correctly.

The best way to help your children build vocabulary is to talk and read with them:

- Studies show that children whose parents talk to them a lot 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 information books. Help your child pick out books about the things he or she is interested in.

Some favorite fiction books about dinosaurs:

- Danny and the Dinosaur, by Syd Hoff
- Dinosaur Roar! by Paul and Henrietta Stickland
- Dino-Basketball, by Lisa Wheeler
- How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? (and other 'How Do Dinosaurs...' series), by Jane Yolen

*Many of these books are also available in Spanish.

- Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp, by Carol Diggory Shields
- When Dinosaurs Came with Everything, by Elise Broach
- New! Dinosaur vs. the Library, by Bob Shea

Book of the Month

Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs, by Byron Barton

A long time ago there were many different kinds of dinosaurs. Bright colors, simple words, and a guide to pronounce the names makes this a great first dinosaur book to share with your preschooler!

Other great books by author Byron Barton:

- Planes
- Trains
- The Three Bears
- My Car... And more!
More fun with Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs

A trip to the library... There are lots of information books about dinosaurs, but most of them are written more for older readers. Here are a few good books for preschoolers:

Dinosaur Bones, by Bob Barner
Dinosaur (a DK book), by Penelope Arlon
Dinosaur Parade, by Kelly Milner Halls
Dinosaurs Galore!, by Giles Andreae
I Dreamed I Was a Dinosaur, by Stella Blackstone
What Were Dinosaurs? by Rebecca Rissman

Out and about... Talk about the things that catch your child’s attention, such as color, shape, and smell, and ask lots of questions. “Wow, look at this rock you found! It is round and smooth, and it sparkles. Where did you find it? Can you find one that feels rough?”

Dinosaur March
(To the tune of “The Ants Go Marching”)
The dinosaurs marched one by one, hurrah, hurrah;
The dinosaurs marched one by one, hurrah, hurrah;
The dinosaurs marched one by one,
The little one stopped to stand in the sun,
And they all went marching around the earth a long time ago.
The dinosaurs marched two by two... to admire the view.
Three by three... to eat from a tree.
Four... to give a roar.
Five... to stay alive.
Six... to gather some sticks.
Seven... to look at heaven.
Eight... to kiss his mate.
Nine... to scratch his spine.
Ten... to do it again!

The Dino Pokey
(To the tune of “The Hokey Pokey”)
You put your claws in,
You put your claws out,
You put your claws in
And you scratch them all about.
You do the Dino Pokey
And you turn yourself around.
That’s what it’s all about!

Additional verses:
You put your feet in... stomp them all about
You put your teeth in... chomp them all about
You put your tail in... swing it all about
~ From www.mrsjones.com

What your library can do for you...
There are some great, high-quality information books available for children of all ages. Your librarian can help you find quality age-appropriate books about dinosaurs or other fun topics!

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