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.

Book of the Month

Quick as a Cricket, by Audrey Wood, illustrated by Don Wood

In this rhyming story a little boy compares himself with animals and insects. Then he puts them all together to describe himself. The full-page illustrations are cheerful, bright, detailed, and fun to share!

Audrey Wood has published lots of books for children. You and your child can visit her website at www.audreywood.com for a list of books, games, and more. Here are some favorites to look for at your library:

- Alphabet Mystery
- Alphabet Adventure
- Alphabet Rescue
- The Big Hungry Bear
- Birdsong
- The Deep Blue Sea
- King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub
- The Napping House
- Piggies
- Rude Giants
- Silly Sally

New in 2012: It’s Duffy Time!
More fun with *Quick as a Cricket*

**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?”

**Acting it out…** Have your child pretend to be the animals in the book by making animal sounds and walking around the room as the animal would.

**Read all about it…** Young children love to look at books about animals. Visit your local library to find books about animal babies, farms, zoos, birds, and more.

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**Song**

**Six Little Ducks**

Six little ducks that I once knew,
Short ones, skinny ones, fair ones, too.
But the one little duck
with the feather on his back,
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!
Quack, quack quack! Quack, quack quack!
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!
Down to the river they would go,
Wibble wobble, wibble wobble, to and fro.
But the one little duck
with the feather on his back,
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!
Quack, quack quack! Quack, quack quack!
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!

To hear the tune, go to www.kididdles.com

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**Song**

**Old MacDonald Had a Farm**

Old MacDonald had a farm,
E-I-E-I-O,
And on his farm he had a cow,
E-I-E-I-O.
With a moo moo here,
And a moo moo there,
Here a moo, there a moo,
Everywhere a moo, moo.
Old MacDonald had a farm,
E-I-E-I-O.

Repeat with other farm animals: pig, horse, sheep, duck, chick

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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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