Vocabulary

Research shows that young children who have spent a lot of time “talking” with adults learn more words, and this helps them become better readers. Knowing many words will help your child recognize and understand written words and language.

To help your young child learn words:

• Talk to your child — a lot! Research shows that parents who talk to their children more often have children with larger word banks, or vocabularies.

• Encourage babies to communicate with you by repeating their cooing sounds back to them. “Ba ba ba.” “Ga ga ga.”

• Tell your baby what you are doing as you go about your daily activities. “I’m getting cereal because I can see that you are hungry.” “It’s cold outside, so we are putting on your coat and hat!” Describe what your baby is doing. “You’re smiling! I see you are happy today.”

• 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 pictures in books.

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.

Featured Book

Big and Little, by Samantha Berger

Children love to compare themselves to everything around them. They will learn comparing words as they read this book of opposites. The photos show animals, objects and people that are both big and little. What other words can you use to describe big and little? (Large, small, gigantic, tiny, etc.)

Other Vocabulary Books...

• “More, More, More,” Said the Baby, by Vera Williams (Caldecott Honor)

• Opposites, by Sandra Boynton

• Planting a Rainbow, by Lois Ehlert

• Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes, by Mem Fox

• Ten Tiny Tickles, by Karen Katz

• I’ll Teach My Dog a Lot of Words, by Michael Frith

• The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle

• The Tiny Tadpole, by Judith Nicholls

• I Went Walking, by Sue Williams

• Global Babies, by Global Fund for Children
More fun with *Big and Little*…

**Math connection**… There are many ways to measure things. At this age children measure things by comparing size, length and weight. Find two objects around the house. Help your child compare them by using opposite words, such as “big and little,” “fat and skinny,” “heavy and light,” or “short and tall.” This activity helps children build vocabulary.

**Sharing books with your child:**

1. Pick the best time. The best time is when you and your child are in a good mood.
2. Talk and have fun. Remember to touch and act out the story.
3. Watch what she does. Let her play with the book if she wants to and stop if she gets upset.

**Share a book with your child every day.** Even just a few minutes is important.

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**Nursery Rhyme**

*Jack Be Nimble*

Jack be nimble,
Jack be quick.
Jack jump over the candlestick.

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**Movement Activity for Toddlers**

**Shake It**

Shake it baby, shake it,
(Wiggle hips side to side)
Shake it if you can. (Keep wiggling)
Shake it like a milkshake and do the best you can.
(Wiggle hips some more)
Rumble to the bottom and rumble to the top. (Wiggle down to the ground rolling, arms in front, then wiggle back up rolling arms)
Turn around and turn around until you make it stop!
(Spin around with one arm extended until you shout STOP)

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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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**Books to Go from Your Library**

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. Brought to you by the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Read to Me program and your local library.