



Did you know... ?

Vocabulary is knowing the names of things, and is developed as you help your child build words out of letters and letter sounds. Most children enter school knowing between 3,000 and 5,000 words. Developing a strong vocabulary helps your child as they learn to read.

When you think about it, you know that 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.

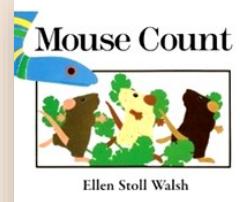
The best way to help your child build vocabulary is to talk and read with them.

Here's how... 🔎

- ★ Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. Talk about the stories and the pictures in the books.
- ★ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations, and more than even children's television programs.
- ★ 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.
- ★ Look for books that teach concepts, such as numbers, colors, shapes, opposites, etc. These are things your child should know before they begin kindergarten (*see Choosing Books*).

Read 📖

Mouse Count, by Ellen Stoll Walsh



A hungry snake counts ten little mice into a jar as he looks forward to his dinner. But the clever mice outwit the snake as they count down from ten until they've all gotten away.

Ellen Stoll Walsh is the author and illustrator of many award-winning early concept books for young children. Look for some of these at your library:

Mouse Paint
Mouse Shapes
Balancing Act
Hop Jump

Choosing Books ✓

More “concept” books:

The Button Box, by Margarette Reid

Big Bug, by Henry Cole

Dinosaur Roar, by Paul and Henrietta Stickland

Gray Rabbit's Odd One Out, by Alan Baker

Blue Sea, by Robert Kalan

Color Zoo, by Lois Ehlert

Lemons Are Not Red, by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Perfect Square, by Michael Hall

Ten Little Caterpillars, by Bill Martin, Jr.

Little Blue and Little Yellow, by Leo Lionni

Talk



As you're driving or walking to a familiar place, talk about the directions you take and the things you pass along the way: "We're turning right at the white fence." "We go under the big bridge." "We go forward two more streets, and there's your school on the left."

Play



Five Green and Speckled Frogs

(Fingerplay or Flannelboard Story)

Five green and speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious bugs.
Yum! Yum!
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were four green speckled frogs.

Repeat with four frogs, then three, two, one, and no speckled frogs.

Other ideas:

Change "green" to another color.

Change "speckled" to another describing word (spotted, striped, tiny, squishy...)



Write



The most important word to a young child as they learn to read and write is their name. After they can identify the letters and write them, you can help them learn other names that are important to them— family members, friends, pets, teachers.

Sing



The Ants Go Marching



The ants go marching one by one.
Hoorah! Hoorah!
The ants go marching one by one.
Hoorah! Hoorah!
The ants go marching one by one;
The little one stops to suck his thumb,
And they all go marching down into the ground
To get out of the rain.
Boom, boom, boom, boom!

Repeat:

Two; little one stops to tie his shoe...
Three; little one stops to climb a tree...
Four; little one stops to shut the door...
Five; little one stops to take a dive...
Six; little one stops to pick up sticks...
Seven; little one stops and looks to heaven...
Eight; little one stops to roller-skate...
Nine; little one stops to check the time...
Ten; little one stops to shout, "THE END!"

Hear the tune and see a video at: bussongs.com

At your library...



Your library, in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, now offers free "storytimes online" every day of the year. Each day features an online book to read with your child, as well as songs, rhymes, fingerplays, videos, crafts, and other activities that you can access from a computer or Smartphone.

DayByDayID.org

STORYTIMES ONLINE