

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 are pronouncing them correctly.

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

Here's how...

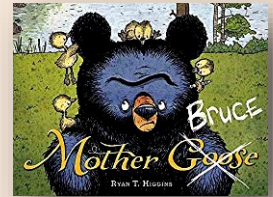


- ❖ Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. Talk about the stories and the pictures in the books.
- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations, and more than even children's television 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



"Mother Bruce" by Ryan T. Higgins



Bruce the bear likes to keep to himself. That, and eat eggs. But when his hard-boiled goose eggs turn out to be real, live goslings, he starts to lose his appetite. And even worse, the goslings are convinced he's their mother. Bruce tries to get the geese to go south, but he can't seem to rid himself of his new companions. What's a bear to do?

More Bruce adventures:

"Hotel Bruce"

"Bruce's Big Move"

"Santa Bruce"



Choose Books



More books that build vocabulary...

- "Max's Words" by Kate Banks
- "After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)" by Dan Santat
- "Wolf!" by Becky Bloom
- "Three Hens and a Peacock" by Lester Laminack
- "Edwina the Emu" by Sheena Knowles
- "Wordy Birdy" by Tammi Sauer
- "The Fed-Up Cow" by Peta Lemon

Talk



Children learn most from books when they are actively involved. Rather than just reading a story to your child, try sharing the reading:

- What do you think will happen next?
- What does this remind you of?
- What is the frog doing in this picture?
- How do you think the boy is feeling? Why?

You don't have to stop on *every* page; in fact, your child may lose interest if you do. But asking some open-ended questions along the way helps your child get ready to read.

Write



Let your child help write the weekly shopping list. Don't worry too much about spelling at this point. Ask what sounds she hears in the word, then encourage her to write the letters she hears.

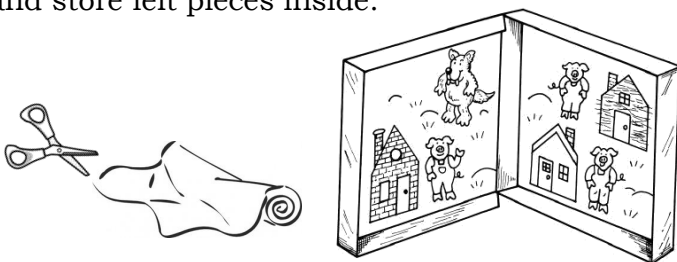
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Play



Help your child re-tell stories by using props made from felt or flannel. Here's a low-cost fun idea:

Use a pizza box or similar flat box with a lid (many pizza stores will give you an unused one if you ask). Cover inside and/or lid with felt or flannel. Make characters or other objects from the story out of felt, or print clip art from a computer and glue a piece of felt to the back. The felt makes it easy to move them around as your child tells the story. Use the box for other stories, and store felt pieces inside.



Sing



Six Little Ducks

Six little ducks that I once knew,
Fat 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!

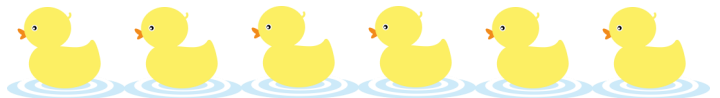
Quack, quack quack! Quack, quack quack!
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!

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.

See a video at <http://tinyurl.com/6littleducks>



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, device, or smartphone.

DayByDayID.org

STORYTIMES ONLINE