

## Did you know...



Vocabulary is knowing the names of things, and it 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...

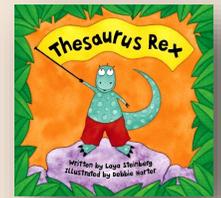


- ❖ Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. Talk about the stories and the pictures in the books.
- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations, and more than even children's television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



### "Thesaurus Rex" by Laya Steinberg



This little dinosaur has a way with words! Help your child build vocabulary with this fun, amusing, entertaining, enjoyable rhyming book you'll want to read again and again.

Also by the author:  
"All Around Me I See"

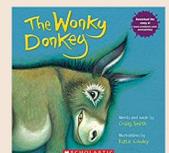
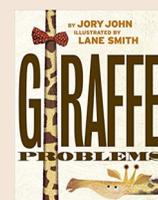
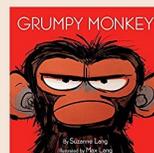


## Choosing Books



### Other fun books that build vocabulary:

- "Dear Deer: A Book of Homophones" by Gene Barretta
- "Chicken Cheeks" by Michael Ian Black
- "Dinosaur Roar" by Paul and Henrietta Stickland
- "We Love Dinosaurs" by Lucy Volpin
- "Grumpy Monkey" by Suzanne Lang
- "The Wonky Donkey" by Craig Smith
- "Giraffe Problems" by Jory John
- "First the Egg" by Laura Vaccaro Seeger



## Talk



Children’s picture books contain more “rare” words than what is heard on television throughout the day. As you read with your child each day, talk about some of the rare words you run across, rather than finding simpler words to replace them. If you’re not sure what the word means, look it up together or ask someone else. This is good modeling for your child for when she finds a word she doesn’t know.

## Write



Help your child write the first letter of his name, then make it into a picture of a dinosaur or monster.

## Play



### Dinosaur Rhyme

With tiny brains (*fist to head*)

And great big tails (*sweep hands behind self*)

Dinosaurs can be as big as whales!  
(*hand creating large path low to high above head*)

They never giggle (*pretend to laugh*)

They never weep (*pretend to cry*)

They just eat – chomp chomp  
(*bend forward and make chewing motion*)

And eat- chomp chomp

And eat – chomp chomp

And sleep!

(*rest head on hands, snore as loud as you can!*)

**From the Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy**

[www.storyblocks.org/project/dinosaur-rhyme/](http://www.storyblocks.org/project/dinosaur-rhyme/)

## Sing



### Dino Pokey

(*To the tune of “The Hokey Pokey”*)

You put your claws in,  
You take 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 horns in... scratch them all about  
You put your teeth in...chomp them all about  
You put your tail in...swing it all about

~ From the King County Library System

<https://kcls.org/content/Hokey-Pokey/>



## 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