

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...

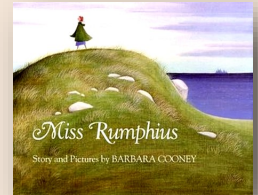


- ✦ Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. Talk about the stories and the pictures in the books.
- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations and more than even children's television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

Read



Miss Rumphius, by Barbara Cooney



This classic book tells the story of a girl's dream to make the world a better place.

April 22nd is Earth Day! Celebrate our planet by getting outside with your kids: take a walk, go to a park, go for a bike ride, and notice all the amazing things around you. Talk with your child about trees, flowers, animals, water, and different kinds of weather or landscape. Allow them to touch and feel and smell, and use lots of describing words!

Choose Books



Some Earth and nature books:

Thank You, Earth, by April Pulley Sayre

My Friend Earth, by Patricia MacLachlan

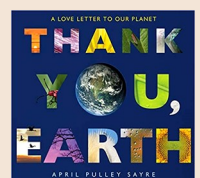
We Are Water Protectors, by Carole Lindstrom

The Last Straw: Kids vs. Plastics, by Susan Hood

Grand Canyon, by Jason Chin

Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth, by Oliver Jeffers

Heal the Earth, by Julian Lennon



Talk



At this age, children are just beginning to understand that the world is a bigger place than their neighborhood. Use maps, globes, books, and the internet to show them pictures of faraway places, such as the sea. Go to lili.org, click on World Book Kids, then click on "Explore." Talk with your child about the places you see, and help them find Idaho on a map.

Write



Write little notes to your child and stick them around the house or in their lunch box. Use short simple words and phrases, such as "I love you," "Good job today!" or "You are so smart!" Encourage your children to write little notes to each other, family members, or neighbors, as well. A few kind words can brighten up anyone's day and help make the world a better place!

Play



Here Is My Garden

Counting Game

Here is my garden in the sun.
Flowers grow here one by one.
Here is a yellow one,
This one is blue.
Here is an orange one,
A red one, too.
The last one is green.
How many do you see?
Let's count as we pick them.
Count with me!

Give your child colored beads or colored strips of paper. Start with one of each color in the rhyme, and ask your child to count them.

Repeat the rhyme several times and change out the numbers for each color.

"Here are two yellow ones,
these three are blue..."



Sing



Down by the Bay

Down by the bay
Where the watermelons grow
Back to my home
I dare not go
For if I do
My mother will say,
"Did you ever see a bear
Combing his hair,
Down by the bay?"

Repeat, adding different rhymes each time:

Did you ever see a whale
With a polka dot tail?

Now add some of your own rhymes!

Did you ever see a cat, _____

Did you ever see a bug, _____

Did you ever see a dog, _____



Hear this song:

[www.thelearninggroove.com/
down-by-the-bay](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/down-by-the-bay)

At your library...



Look for books about the earth and nature at your local library. Some libraries have special Earth Day events planned. Visit your library's website or give them a call!