

## 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



### ***Big Chickens Fly the Coop*, by Leslie Helakoski**



When four farmyard chickens begin to feel like they need to spread their wings a bit, they decide to go find the farmhouse to check things out. They must face pouncing dogs, roaring tractors, and wild horses along their journey... to find that the farmhouse was right next to the coop!

Other Big Chicken books:



## Choose Books



### **Some other great books to help build your child's vocabulary:**

*Calvin Gets the Last Word*, by Margo Sorenson

*Chez Bob*, by Bob Shea

*Gladys the Magic Chicken*, by Adam Rubin

*It Fell from the Sky*, by Terry Fan

*Love by Sophia*, by Jim Averbeck

*Mother Bruce*, by Ryan T. Higgins

*Paolo, Emperor of Rome*, by Mac Barnett

*Room for Everyone*, by Naaz Khan

*Walrus Song*, by Janet Lawler

## Talk

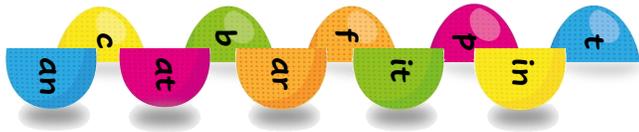


A “compound” word is two little words that make a new words, such as “cowboy.” There are lots of great compound words in *Big Chickens Fly the Coop* (and most other books). Try this with your child: “Say farmhouse. Now say it without the ‘farm’ . Say farmyard. Now say it without the ‘yard’ .” Other compound words: doghouse, heartbeat, partway, tiptoe, someone, anytime. Playing with words like this helps your child hear the little parts of words, which helps them become better readers and spellers.

## Write



Here is another use for plastic Easter eggs: Help your child write the letters “an,” “at,” “ar,” “it,” “in,” and “un” on the bottom part of six eggs. On the top ends of six to twelve eggs help them write letters such as “b,” “c,” “d,” “f,” “h,” “m,” “p,” “r,” “s,” and “t.” Help them make three-letter words by putting the eggs together, such as “can,” “hat,” “fit,” etc. Made-up words are okay, too!

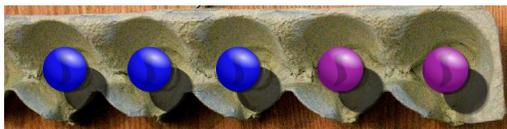


## Play



### Make 5

Cut 5 sections from an egg container. Give your child 5 each of two different colored small objects (beans, paperclips, cereal, buttons, bottlecaps, etc.). Ask you child to find all the ways to make 5, placing one object in each section.



Kindergarteners should start with a good understanding of all the ways to make 5, then work up to 10.

## Sing



### Mother Gooney Bird

*(There are many versions of this song, which is based on the tune “Father Abraham.” Here is one fun version:*

#### Chorus:

Mother Goony Bird had seven chicks.  
Seven chicks had Mother Goony Bird.  
And they couldn't fly, and they couldn't swim,  
They could only go like this:

**Right wing** (*right arm bent in "wing" position, flaps up and down*)

*Repeat chorus, this time add:*

**Left wing** (*left arm goes along with right wing*)

*Keep repeating chorus, add one each time and match actions to body part:*

**Right foot**

**Left foot**

**Nod head**

**Tail Out**

**Turn Around... Sit down!**



See video and hear tune:

<https://tinyurl.com/mother-gooney-bird>



## At your library...



Your family is welcome in the library, and your librarians care very much about you and your children. They are committed to helping every child get a great start, succeed in school, and create lifelong learners. **Libraries are for everyone!**