

## Did you know ...



“Vocabulary” is knowing the names of things and ideas. Most children enter school knowing several thousand 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, knowing they are pronouncing them correctly, and understanding what the words mean.

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

## Here's how...

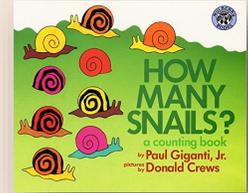


- ❖ Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. Talk about the stories and the pictures in the books.
- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations, and more than even children's television programs.
- ❖ Talk to your child about what is going on around you. Talk about feelings, ideas, and how things work. Listen with your full attention when your child talks to you.
- ❖ Look for books that teach concepts, such as numbers, colors, shapes, opposites, etc. These are things that help your child be more successful in kindergarten (*see Choose Books*).

## Read



### ***How Many Snails?* by Paul Giganti, Jr., illustrated by Donald Crews**



Simple questions ask young children to look at the differences between objects, then count them up. This “concept” book about counting and comparing objects has colorful and detailed pictures. It provides many ways adults can interact with their children as they read together.

#### **Other books by the author:**

*Each Orange Had Eight Slices:  
A Counting Book*

*How Many Blue Birds Flew Away?  
A Counting Book with a Difference*

*Notorious Numbers*

## Choosing Books



#### **More “concept” books:**

*Dear Deer: A Book of Homophones*, by Gene Barretta

*The Doorbell Rang*, by Pat Hutchins

*First the Egg*, by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

*The Icky Bug Counting Book*, by Jerry Pallotta

*Opposnakes: A Lift-the-Flap Book About Opposites*, by Salina Yoon

*Over and Under the Snow*, by Kate Messner

*The Shape of Things*, by Dayle Ann Dodds

*White Rabbit's Color Book*, by Alan Baker

## Talk



By the end of kindergarten, children should be comfortable with counting and grouping numbers up to 20. Help your child count collections of things around the house: pennies, buttons, dry beans, etc. Ask them to explain how they are counting (one by one, in groups, etc.). When they are finished, ask how many objects there are. Arrange the objects in a different way (in one line, or in rows), and ask your child to tell you how many there are. Many children this age will need to recount the objects. As your child's brain develops, they will understand that arranging the objects in different ways does not change the amount.

## Write



After your child counts a collection of objects (see above), ask them to make a drawing of how they counted the objects: Are the objects all in one big group? Or smaller groups of two or five? The ability to illustrate their thinking is a skill they will need when they do more complicated math in the future.

## Play



### Garden Snails

Ten little garden snails sitting in the sun.  
Along comes a (blue) bird,  
And flies away with one.

Nine little garden snails sitting in the sun.  
Along comes a (red) bird,  
And flies away with one.

*(Continue counting backward to one, with a different color each time.)*

How many garden snails are left sitting in the sun? "Zero" means none!



## Sing



### This Old Man

This old man, he played **one**,  
He played knick knack with his thumb,  
With a knick, knack, paddy whack,  
Give the dog a bone;  
This old man came rolling home.  
This old man, he played **two**,  
He played knick knack on my shoe,  
With a knick, knack, paddy whack,  
Give the dog a bone,  
This old man came rolling home.

*Continue singing with these verses:*

<b>Three</b> , on his knee	<b>Seven</b> , up to heaven
<b>Four</b> , on the door	<b>Eight</b> , on my gate
<b>Five</b> , on my hive	<b>Nine</b> , on my spine
<b>Six</b> , with his sticks	<b>Ten</b> , all over again

*See a version of this song at*

<http://tinyurl.com/RIF-oldman>

## 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!**