

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 ...

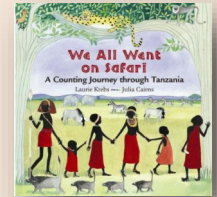


- ❖ Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. Talk about the stories and the pictures in the books.
- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations and more than even children's television 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 will help your child be more successful when they start kindergarten (see *Choosing Books*).

Read



***We All Went on Safari: A Counting Journey Through Tanzania*, by Laurie Krebs**



Your child will enjoy learning numbers from one to ten in English and Swahili as a group of Maasai children count African wildlife in the grasslands of Tanzania. The bright colors and rhyming text make this safari story a great read-aloud!

Choosing Books



More “concept” books:

The Button Box, by Margarette S. Reid

Big Bug, by Henry Cole

Color Zoo, by Lois Ehlert

Dinosaur Roar, by Paul and Henrietta Stickland

Gray Rabbit's Odd One Out, by Alan Baker

Lemons Are Not Red, by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Little Blue and Little Yellow, by Leo Lionni

Mouse Count, by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Perfect Square, by Michael Hall

Ten Little Caterpillars, by Bill Martin, Jr.

Same and Different, from National Geographic

Talk



Research shows us that the more we talk with children, the more words they add to their “vocabulary banks.” Children who know and understand thousands of rich words will have an easier time learning to read. Here is an example:

You can sound out the words and read the sentence correctly; however, if you have never heard some of those words, you will have a difficult time knowing what the sentence means.

As you talk with your child, ask them questions, and help them use lots of describing words.

Write



This activity helps develop the little finger muscles needed to hold a pencil: Write the first letter of your child’s name on a piece of computer or notebook paper (write it large). Lay the paper on top of a dish towel or on a rug. Let your child use a toothpick or push pin to punch tiny holes on the lines of the letter. Then hold the paper up to a window to see the letter shine through.



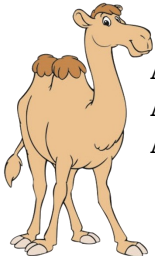
Sing



Alice the Camel

Alice the Camel has five humps.
Alice the Camel has five humps.
Alice the Camel has five humps,
So go, Alice, go!

*Repeat with four humps, three humps,
two humps, one hump.*



Alice the camel has no humps.
Alice the camel has no humps.
Alice the camel has no humps,
'cause Alice is a horse!

www.thelearninggroove.com/alice-the-camel-

Play



Counting Game

One little lion went out one day
on the grassy plains to run and play.
He thought it was so much fun
he called some friends,
who came on the run.

Two little giraffes went out one day
on the grassy plains to run and play.
They thought it was so much fun
they called more friends,
who came on the run.

Continue with this counting rhyme, adding more and more safari animals, such as three zebras, four rhinos, and five elephants.

Math connections: Use toy animals, felt cutouts, or drawings. Ask your child simple math questions: How many lions and zebras are there? How many more giraffes are there than lions?

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!