

## 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 ...

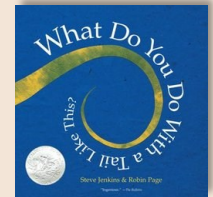


- ❖ Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. Talk about the stories and the pictures in the books.
- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations or children's television programs.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

## Read



### **What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?** by Steve Jenkins



A nose for digging? Ears for seeing? Your child will explore the many amazing things animals can do with their ears, eyes, mouths, noses, feet, and tails in this beautifully illustrated guessing book.

Information books, or “nonfiction” books, such as *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?* are full of rich vocabulary.

## Choosing Books



### **More nonfiction books your child may enjoy:**

*Bee Dance* by Rick Chrustowski

*Best Foot Forward* by Ingo Arndt

*Bloom, Bloom* by April Pulley Sayre

*The Book of Seasons / El libro de las estaciones* by Alice and Martin Provensen

*Hello Ocean / Hola mar* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

*Hey, Water!* by Antoinette Portis

*Honeybee* by Candace Fleming

*How Big Is an Elephant?* by Rossana Bossù

*Red-Eyed Tree Frog* by Joy Cowley

*Who Has These Feet?* by Laura Hulbert

*Terrific Tongues* by Maria Gianferrari

*Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* by Kate Messner

## Why kids need nonfiction



- Nonfiction can be a way for parents to share their interests with their children.
- Information books expose children to special vocabulary and concepts, which helps build language.
- Reading nonfiction now can help children prepare for reading these types of books later in life.

## Write



Cutting and tearing strengthen the little muscles in your child's fingers needed to hold a pencil.

A picture that is made by cutting and tearing different kinds of paper and layering them into shapes is called a "collage." You can help your child make a collage with simple materials:

- A sheet of blank paper or cardboard
- Lots of different kinds of paper (junk mail, newspaper, magazines, tissue paper, etc.)
- Non-toxic glue or homemade paste (mix a little flour and water together)
- Safety scissors (or just tear the paper)

## Play



### Stuffed Animal Picnic

Even though life can be very busy, it's so important to spend a little time playing with your child each day. Consider turning lunchtime one day this month into an indoor picnic for you, your child, and some of their favorite stuffed friends. Pack a simple lunch in a basket, then go on a "safari" through the house to find your perfect picnic spot. Lay out your picnic and enjoy some downtime together.



## Sing



### The Animal Fair

I went to the animal fair;  
The birds and the beasts were there.  
The big baboon by the light of the moon  
Was combing his auburn hair.  
The monkey bumped the skunk,  
And sat on the elephant's trunk;  
The elephant sneezed and fell to his knees,  
And that was the end of the monk!  
The monk!



<https://bussongs.com/songs/i-went-to-the-animal-fair>

## At your library ...



**Electronic books and audiobooks:** Screen time for preschoolers should be limited; however, reading an occasional picture book with your child on your device is one way to enjoy more great stories together. Or skip the screen—listening to audiobooks develops important early literacy skills. Ask your library about e-books and audiobooks available for checkout.