

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 ...

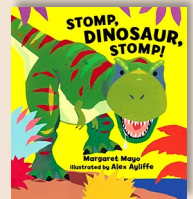


- ✦ Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. Talk about the stories and the pictures in the books.
- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day. Children's books have more rare words than everyday conversations or children's television programs.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



Stomp, Dinosaur, Stomp! by Margaret Mayo



This is a noisy, active parade of dinosaurs who stomp, chomp, race, and chase their way through the pages. How many new words can you talk about with your child?!

Not sure how to say these dinosaur names? Visit this site from Usborne books to hear the names aloud and to learn more about each dinosaur in the book: <https://usborne.com/us/quicklinks/quicklink/dinosaur-name-pronunciation-guide>.

More books from Margaret Mayo:

Choo Choo Clickety-Clack
Dig, Dig, Digging
Emergency!
Roar!
Snap!
Zoom, Rocket, Zoom!

Choosing Books



Dinosaur books for preschool-aged children:

Here We Go Digging for Dinosaur Bones by Susan Lendroth

Stomp and Chomp: My First Book of Dinosaurs by Simon Mole

Whose Dinosaur Bones Are Those? by Chihiro Takeuchi

Dinosaurs: By the Numbers by Steve Jenkins

Dinosaurs! by Gail Gibbons (updated)

Talk



Children's picture books contain more rare words than what is heard on television or YouTube videos throughout the day. As you read with your child each day, talk about some of the rare words you run across, rather than finding simpler words to replace them. If you're not sure what the word means, look it up together or ask someone else. This is good modeling for your child.

Write



Give your child crayons or markers and let them draw a picture of a dinosaur or monster. Ask them to tell you about it, then help them label it with a name.

Play



Fingerplay: Five Enormous Dinosaurs

Start with five fingers held up. Each time a dinosaur goes away put one finger down.

Five enormous dinosaurs,
letting out a roar (*give a loud roar*).
One went away, and then there were four.
Four enormous dinosaurs,
munching on a tree (*pretend to munch*).
One went away, and then there were three.
Three enormous dinosaurs,
didn't know what to do (*shake your head "no"*).
One went away, and then there were two.
Two enormous dinosaurs,
Having lots of fun (*wiggle your body*).
One went away, and then there was one.
One enormous dinosaur,
Left all alone (*pretend to cry*).
He went away, and then there were none!
(*show empty hands for "all gone"*)

~ from the Hennepin County Library



Sing



If You're a Great Big Dinosaur

(Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")

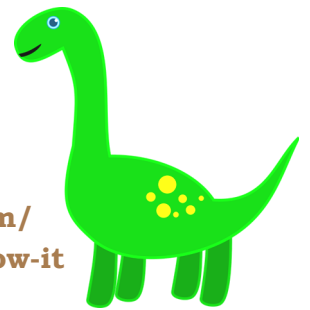
If you're a great big dinosaur,
Show your claws.
If you're a great big dinosaur
Show your claws.
If you're a great big dinosaur
Then give a great big roar (ROAR)!
If you're a great big dinosaur
Show your claws.

Additional verses:

... show your teeth
... wiggle your tail
... munch some leaves
... stomp your feet

Hear this tune at:

[www.thelearninggroove.com/
if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it)



At your library ...

