

# TIPS TO BUILD YOUR CHILD'S VOCABULARY AT HOME

## **HAVE CONVERSATIONS**

Talk with your child every day. By talking and listening, your child will build oral language and vocabulary.

*Example:* Talk about your child's school day. Ask him/her to describe the highs and lows of the day. Prompt him/her to explain details of what happened, how they felt, and ways their classmates or teacher reacted.

## **INVOLVE YOUR CHILD**

Cooking, gardening, or other activities around the house provide opportunities for children to learn new vocabulary words.

*Example:* If your child is helping make cookies, you can introduce cooking terms (measure, cups, teaspoon, etc.) while showing him/her what the words mean.

## **USE BIG WORDS**

You don't always have to use "easy" words when speaking with your child. Show him/her there are different, fancier ways of saying words he/she already knows.

*Example:* Descriptive words such as "heartbroken" and "upset" can be used in place of the word "sad."

## **GO FOR A WALK**

The great outdoors provide many opportunities for children to discover and learn. Going for a simple walk around your neighborhood can help your child learn and use new words.

*Example:* Point out different vehicles you might see. You can discuss types of cars, different sizes (mini, large, humungous), or the purpose of each type of vehicle (delivery, bus, ambulance, family).

## **TALK ABOUT BOOKS**

While reading with your child, make sure to discuss the story.

*Example:* Use a variety of words to describe characters or events from the story. If your child comes to a new word, talk about the meaning and try to explain it in a way your child can understand.

## **TELL STORIES**

Telling stories is an engaging way to get your child talking and asking questions, which is also strengthening vocabulary.

*Example:* Tell your child about when you were young. Talk about trips you might have taken or how school might have been different when you were young.

## **SORT AND GROUP OBJECTS**

By putting objects in groups, children can learn new words that label that category. You can also discuss the ways in which items are similar or different.

*Example:* Sorting toys, laundry, things in your recycling bin are good examples to try. Ask what the items have in common, what he/she would name the groups, and how can we tell them apart.