

Activities to Help Your Child Learn More Words

Daily Routines

- Common words can be taught using daily routines.
- For example during dressing (e.g., “Let’s put on your sweater”, “Push your foot in the boot”, “Zip the zipper”).
- Say these words when your child is dressing as often as possible.
- Say key words a little louder and a little slower (e.g., objects or verbs).

Themes:

- Teach new words or improve understanding and use of familiar words by using themes. You can make up your own or follow the themes being used in daycare/school programs.
- For example: vegetables. Sample Word List: carrots, crunchy, orange, root, peel, tasty, salad.
- Activities
 - Read a story about a farmer, a garden, or Peter Rabbit.
 - Involve the child in an activity where you make a salad.
 - Buy plastic vegetables from the dollar store and play ‘hide and seek’ and have the child tell you about the vegetable he found.
 - Take your child grocery shopping and buy/talk about the different vegetables that are there.
 - Get a puppet and “feed” plastic vegetables/pictures to the puppet.
 - Use the theme words during the day (e.g., talk about vegetables you are eating for lunch/dinner).
 - Get the family involved. Make sure everyone is aware of the theme being targeted so that they can reinforce the vocabulary.
 - Play games with pictures. Make 2 copies of the pictures and play matching/memory games or BINGO.
 - Glue pictures in a scrapbook according to theme pages and then you will have a special book to read together.
- The best resources for vocabulary are old grocery flyers and catalogues. You can play:
 - Shopping games: make a ‘picture’ shopping list by cutting and gluing items on paper and then find them in your kitchen (Themes: VEGETABLES, MEAT, FRUIT, BREADS, or DESSERTS)
 - Make a picture of a house and cut out furniture to glue in the rooms (Theme: HOUSE or FURNITURE)
 - Cut out a boy and a girl, then glue on clothes and toys (Theme: CLOTHES)

Reference: “Developing Vocabulary” – no source.