

10 Ways to Help Your Child with Vocabulary



1. Talk with your children. Use new words.
2. Read to your child often. Choose books to read to your child that are written at a higher level than your child's present reading vocabulary level.
3. Take your child on field trips. This helps your child learn more words.
4. Help with word attack strategies. Look for smaller words within words, beginnings and endings, common sounds, less common sounds like "c" making the /s/ sound, and context clues. Help your child learn how to use the other words in the sentences for help, consult a dictionary, or ask for help.
5. Play Stump the Reader. Ask your child to find a word you might not know and write it down. Model the word attack strategies above to determine the new word.
6. Play some purchased traditional games. Those include Scrabble, Scrabble Jr., Upwords, Boggle Jr., and Password. All are available in most retail stores.
7. Play some homemade games. Play something like Memory, Go Fish, or Tic-Tac-Toe using words or letters.
8. Write 20 new words on some index cards. Make 5 columns and categorize those words so that similar words are together.
9. Challenge each family member to come to the dinner table with a new word to share with the rest of the family.
10. Read, read, read. Simply read. The more a child reads, the more words a child sees, and the more words a child learns. Children who do the best on tests are often the children who read the most.