

Increasing Vocabulary Skills

- Point out and name vocabulary in your child's environment (home, neighborhood, books)
- Receptive vocabulary skills can be worked on by having your child point to an object (in a group of other objects) after you state "Show me the _____. Where is the _____. Point to the _____." You can also have your child point to pictures you name in books.
- Receptive language skills typically develop earlier than expressive language skills so developing the ability to identify items and actions by pointing to them (or acting them out) is the first step to being able to express their knowledge of words.
- If your child struggles with naming items, start with a few of his/her favorite items (toys, people, etc.) and practice learning these words every day.
- As your child's vocabulary increases have him/her try and name pictures in books or in his daily environment (car, yard, neighborhood, store, etc).
- Different categories of vocabulary words to focus on for preschool aged children are: clothing, food, animals, toys, vehicles, home items, school items, colors, shapes.
- Don't forget to work on learning action words (run, jump, read, slide, drive, throw, etc.). Your child will need a large variety of these words when formulating phrases and sentences.
- You can increase the level of difficulty by having your child point to, or name, items by their function or attribute (something you drive, something you eat, it is red, it is fast, it is bumpy).