



Build Children's Everyday Vocabulary

Children's vocabulary grows when they participate in conversations and hear new words. Highlight new words by pairing the word with a gesture, repeating it and explaining what it means. Here are some fun things to try in everyday situations:

Play Time

If you and the child are playing with bubbles, introduce new words like **enormous** and **burst**. Repeat the new words throughout the activity – for example, every time you or the child blows an **enormous** bubble. Then look for other **enormous** items throughout the child's day.



Daily Activities

While baking together and using a whisk, if the child says, "I want to do that," be sure to provide the specific word for what the child is referring to. You could say, "You want to **whisk the eggs**." Stress the word **whisk** while you pretend to stir. Repeat the word as the child uses it to beat the eggs.

On the Go

While at the playground, introduce new words that describe what the child is doing. For example, if the child is racing across the playground, say, "You're **sprinting** across this playground!" Draw their attention to the word by emphasizing and repeating it. Use the word in different situations, like when a dog **sprints** to retrieve a ball.



Book Reading

Help the child understand a new word in a book by relating it to something they know. For example, while reading *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, comment on how the goats **want** or are **tempted** by the grass across the river. Remind the child of a time they were **tempted** to eat cookies but couldn't because it was dinner time.

Notes