

HOW DO WE TEACH VOCABULARY?

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1. Get comfortable talking with someone who may not respond yet.
2. Face the child when speaking, allowing them to see your mouth postures and expressions.
3. Provide words for them, talking about what they're doing. I.e., Narrate their thinking.
4. Speak clearly, modeling correctly enunciated speech and language.
5. Expand upon what the child says. (Child says: Ball. You say: Big ball.)
6. Respectfully repeat with corrected sounds, grammar and vocabulary. It's not necessary to ask for a repeat. Most children will do it automatically without prompting.
7. Keep directions simple, age appropriate, and with a reachable goal in mind.
8. Break multiple-step directions into single steps as necessary.
9. Demonstrate directions. It should never be a test without guidance.
10. Present visual representations to introduce new information or difficult ideas.
11. Use a multi-modality approach. E.g., showing, describing, doing with them.
12. Break down longer sentences to a child's developmental level of understanding.
13. Make connections. Relate new information to what is already known. E.g., *That's like Grandpa's...*
14. Present synonyms and antonyms for challenging words.
15. Facilitate play and conversation between children, knowing when to step back to allow children to interact without adult intervention. After guidance, children best learn exploring and experimenting on their own.

*Children entering kindergarten
with a strong vocabulary base
tend to have an easier time
gaining early literacy skills,
I.e., reading and writing.*

