

Building Your Child's Vocabulary

Parent Strategies: Learn how to build your child's word knowledge by using big and sophisticated words in everyday conversations and by defining words in ways your child can understand.

WHAT



Use Big and Sophisticated Words

WHY

Children who know difficult words and feel comfortable using them will have a lasting interest in words and will be motivated to learn even more words. The quality and quantity of words you use at home will be an important factor in your child's school success.

HOW

Use big words in everyday conversations. Promote **questions** and **curiosity** about words used at home. **Replace simple words** with more difficult words like using "joyful" instead of "happy".



WHAT



Define Words in Ways Your Child Can Understand

WHY

Children need to hear words many times before they truly understand and use them correctly. When you use big words in everyday conversations, and take the time to explain the meaning of new words, you are helping your child learn.

HOW

Describe unknown words by providing details. **Use pictures or objects** to help explain new words. **Give examples** of how you would use the word. **Make connections** to your child's personal experiences.

