

# LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FOR PRESCHOOLERS!

- Knowing what words mean
- Understanding how words relate (categories, opposites, parts/whole)
- Grasping contextual meaning (e.g., "bat" can mean an animal or a sports item)

## 01. Read Aloud and Talk About the Words

Reading is one of the best ways to introduce and reinforce new vocabulary.

- Choose books with rich, varied vocabulary.
- Pause to explain unfamiliar words in child-friendly ways.
- Ask: "What does that word mean?" or "Can you think of another word like that?"

Example: "The bear was enormous." Ask, "What does enormous mean? Is it big or small?"

## 03. Play Category and Sorting Games

Teach how words are grouped and related.

- Sort pictures or objects by:
  - Category: Animals, clothing, food
  - Function: Things you wear, things you eat
  - Attributes: Colors, sizes, shapes

Example: "Which of these things are fruits? Which are vegetables?"

## 05. Play "What's This?" and "What's It For?"

Encourage children to name and describe objects and their uses.

- Show an object and ask:
  - "What is this?"
  - "What do we do with it?"
  - "Where would we find one of these?"

## 02. Use and Expand Everyday Vocabulary

Talk with children using specific and varied words during everyday routines.

- Instead of "Put that thing over there," say:
  - "Put the red plastic shovel in the sandbox."
- Label everything: objects, feelings, actions, and places.

## 04. Teach Opposites and Comparisons

Introduce words in pairs to help children understand nuance and contrast.

- Hot/Cold, Big/Small, Happy/Sad
- Use toys, puppets, or visuals to act them out
- Ask: "What's the opposite of fast?"

## 06. Sing and Use Repetition

Songs, fingerplays, and chants help reinforce word meanings through rhythm and context.

- Use songs like:
  - "If You're Happy and You Know It" (emotions)
  - "Old MacDonald" (animals and their sounds)