

# HOW FAMILIES CAN SUPPORT VOCABULARY BUILDING AT HOME

## HELPFUL TIPS TO ENCOURAGE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

### Talk About Words While Reading

Use story-time to teach new words.

- "He was enormous! That means really, really big."
- Ask: "What does that word mean? Can you show me?"



### Use Real Words During the Day

Use specific names and action words.

- Say: "Please hand me the measuring cup" instead of "thing."
- Label feelings: "You look frustrated. That means you're having a hard time."

### Play Sorting and Matching Games

- Sort items by category (foods, animals, clothes)
- Match items that go together (toothbrush and toothpaste)
- Name opposites (hot/cold, big/small)

### Sing Songs and Rhymes

Songs help kids hear words in context.

- Try: "Wheels on the Bus," "If You're Happy and You Know It"
- Use fingerplays to match actions to words.



### Ask and Answer Questions

Encourage your child to explain things in their own words.

- "What do we use this for?"
- "What else is like a cat?"

### Play Pretend and Talk Through It

Use toys, dolls, or dress-up play to build word use.

- "What is the doctor doing?"
- "What does the chef need to cook?"

### Teach and Use Feeling Words

Help children name their emotions and those of others.

- Happy, sad, scared, excited, worried
- Read books that explore feelings and ask: "How does the character feel?"

**Remember: The more your child hears, sees, and uses new words, the more their brain grows! Everyday moments = powerful language learning. Talk, read, play, and explore together!**