

PROMOTING VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT IN SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Simple at home ways to encourage language development



1 STRESS THE TARGET

Add emphasis to the target word you are teaching to your child to help bring extra **awareness** to the target word; you can do this by increasing your volume level and altering the pitch of your voice!

2 USE GESTURES

It can be helpful to use gestures when teaching verbs as these can be harder for children to conceptualize in comparison to nouns which have matching objects.

Example: you can pretend to be kicking a ball to help teach the verb kicking.

3 USE SEMANTIC/PHONEMIC CUES

Semantic cues: If the target word was apple, you could also include "hints" such as: It's a fruit, it's red, and it grows on a tree.

Phonemic cues: It starts with the letter 'A' and the beginning sound is "ah".

Using cues can help to add associations to store new vocabulary words in the child's memory and can be used as reminders to retrieve the words.

4 INCREASE EXPOSURES

Try and say the words as **many** times as you can in meaningful contexts; you can do this by saying the word in different situations where your child might encounter this word. Research shows 35-40 exposures to a word can be beneficial to a child's vocabulary learning. Example: for "**wash**" - "I was the car", "I wash my body", "I wash the dishes".

5 EXPLICIT TEACHING

It can be beneficial to let your child know exactly what you are doing: "I want to teach you this new word- this is the word, this is what it means and this is how you can use it in a sentence.

6 USE WRITING!

Pairing the written word with auditory presentations can help promote vocabulary learning.

