

Language Development activities for developing vocabulary

Enable Ireland Kilkenny

What is vocabulary? - Vocabulary refers to the variety, or range of words a person uses.

Why is vocabulary important? If your child has a wide and varied vocabulary, it will help them to understand and describe their experiences, thoughts and ideas. It is the basis for the development of all the other skills: reading comprehension, listening comprehension, speaking, writing, spelling and pronunciation.

How can I work on developing my child's vocabulary?- Included in this pack are a number of activities that can be used to help your child develop their vocabulary around nouns (object/naming words) and verbs (action words).

We hope this pack helps to develop your little ones vocabulary and you enjoy playing the games and learning together,

Enable Ireland Team , Kilkenny.



Games to work on vocabulary

1. Choice

Provide a choice if your child cannot remember the word

E.g. Is it a tiger or a caterpillar?

2. Sorting

Help your child to sort/tidy the toys, e.g. place all the cars in one box and all the lego in another box

Allow your child help with washing clothes e.g. separate the socks, trousers, t-shirts, etc.



Allow your child to help with emptying the dishwasher separate the forks and knives and spoons, etc.

3. What am I thinking of?

Hide a common object in a box and describe it, can your child guess the name

e.g. apple - it's Yellow, it's a fruit, it's long, you have to peel it before you eat i



4. "Go Fish"

Use a game of "Go Fish" to give your child opportunities to practice new words. Make a fishing rod out of a length of a pencil and a piece of string with a small magnet on the end.



Make 'fish' by attaching paper clips to picture cards of objects (you can get these from magazines or download them for free from the internet). Take turns using the fishing rod to fish for cards (from a bucket, box or off the floor). When either of you 'catches' a card, say the word for your child first, then get them to repeat it after you.

5. Play 'Simon Says' using a range of actions

"Simon says...clap your hands/stamp your feet/jump/wiggle/squirm/roll..."You may need to demonstrate the action you want your child to do. If you demonstrate the action, make sure your child copies you. Your child is more likely to remember the word because they will link it to the action they performed.

6. I spy

Play I spy. Instead of using letters use features of the object. E.g. "I spy with my little eye, something that has 2 eyes and ears and arms and legs and is cuddly and brown".



7. Mind maps

Use mind maps to help organise words that go together and provide your child with a visual guide to describing a topic. You can use this chart to help when describing things. Ex. Describe an Apple....

Describing Chart



Colour:



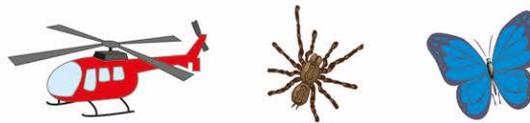
Size:



Shape:



Special parts:



Where is it found?



Category:



How does it feel?



What it does?



What is it made from?



8. Play a naming game. Can your child name the animal/object?

What

- Squeaks
- Smells
- Drips
- Burns
- Roars
- Breaks
- Growls
- Slams
- Flushes
- Hisses
- Moo
- oinks
- Splashes
- Sinks
- Cries , etc.



9. Think of three things (or whatever number you want) that.....

- Are red
- Are fast
- Are blue
- You drive
- That are soft
- That are hard
- Are animals
- Are sports
- Are big
- Are little
- You drink
- You eat, etc.
- You find in your bedroom
- You find in the kitchen



- You find in the bathroom
- You find in the zoo
- You find on the farm
- You can play with
- You watch on TV
- You find in the garden
- Etc..... the list is endless!

10. Reading stories

Read stories that involve lots of verbs (action words). As you read the stories with your child emphasise the verbs and act them out e.g. goldilocks whose been **sleeping** in my bed, whose been **sitting** in my chair and whose been **eating** my porridge.



11. Using new words for everyday activities

Use a range of different verbs (action words), when talking to your child during everyday experiences. For example:

- Cooking - stirring, whisking, shaking, rolling
- Gardening - digging, clipping, planting, watering
- Bath time - splashing, washing, scrubbing, pouring, playing
- Packing up/cleaning - wiping, finding, folding, packing, stacking
- At the playground - running, hopping, climbing, swinging, sliding

12. Posting game

Paste noun or verb pictures onto cardboard rectangles (cut from a cereal box or similar) and play a posting game. Make a post box out of another cardboard box and use the pictures as 'letters' to post — again, say the word for your child first, then ask your child to repeat it. Once your child has repeated a word, they can post the card.