

What is vocabulary development?

What is vocabulary?

- o The word **vocabulary** means all the words of a language and what they mean. A person's vocabulary consists of all the words they can use and understand.

Why teach vocabulary?

- o Vocabulary building is important in developing literacy
- o Vocabulary has a direct affect on comprehension
- o Children with large vocabularies tend to be strong readers
- o A child's vocabulary can increase by up to 3000 words a year with exposure to new words

What can I do to support or help my child?

- o Have your child read. Reading is the largest source of vocabulary growth. While reading, write down any unknown words. Then take time together to look up the meanings and discuss them.
- o When introducing new vocabulary words expose your child to the new word at least 12 times.
 - Have your child act out a new word or create a movement to represent that word.
 - Discuss the meaning of one new word per week at the dinner table, creating a family dictionary of new words learned.
 - Have your child a draw picture of the new vocabulary word.
 - Have your child write a sentence using the new vocabulary word.
 - While reading have your child pick out one or two unknown words. After reading review the unknown words. Teach your child the unknown vocabulary words by relating them as much as possible to everyday life.
 - Look the new word in the dictionary. However, do not limit vocabulary building to this source. Looking up a word in a dictionary is not enough. Expose the child to the word in other ways.

Where can I learn more?

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Irvin, J.L. (2001). Assisting Struggling Readers In Building Vocabulary and Background Knowledge. *Voice From The Middle*, 8(4), 37-43.

Shaywitz, S., M.D. (2003). *Helping Your Child Become A Reader, Overcoming Dyslexia* (236-241). New York: Alfred A. Knopf.



LDA of Minnesota

For more than 36 years, **Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota** has been serving the needs of people of all ages at risk for learning disabilities or related learning difficulties by maximizing their potential so that they may lead more productive and fulfilled lives. Services include educational assessments, one-to-one and small group tutoring, consultations, family literacy activities, school-to-work transition programming, professional training, public education, and high-quality educational products.

LDA of Minnesota is the state affiliate of LDA of America, a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to identifying causes, promoting prevention of learning disabilities, and enhancing the quality of life for all individuals with learning disabilities and their families by encouraging effective identification and intervention, fostering research, and protecting their rights under law.