



VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VOLUME #16

BOOST YOUR CHILD'S VOCABULARY

HELLO PARENTS,

It is important to cultivate children's vocabulary so that they develop the language and literacy skills necessary to succeed in life. Children who have rich vocabulary communicate better, are able to describe their emotions, convey their thoughts, have deeper conversations, and do better at school. The adults in a child's life play a significant role in helping a child learn new words.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

POINT OUT OBJECTS

MATERIALS:

- Favourite toys
- Household objects

DIRECTIONS:

- Hold or point to a toy or an object and say its name.
- When you go for a walk, identify objects in the environment – a bird, a flower, a car, etc. Familiarize your baby with these everyday words.
- Repeat what your baby is saying.

Click [here](#) for more ideas.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

LAUNDRY DAY

MATERIALS:

- Clothes that need to be washed
- Laundry detergent
- Clothespins (if hang-drying)

DIRECTIONS:

- Together with your child, sort laundry by colour (dark, light).
- Measure the laundry detergent.
- Have your child help you put laundry in the machine and add the detergent.
- When the cycle is done, have your child assist you to put the clothes in the dryer or hang them on the clothesline.
- Throughout this activity, describe what you are doing ("we are sorting by colour", "let's add detergent to this compartment", "the clothes are being washed") and emphasise related words (for example: detergent, soak, spinning, rinsing, clothespin, etc.).
- Repeat the words a few times in different sentences.

Click [here](#) to find more ideas.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

LITERACY WALK

MATERIALS:

- A cell phone or a camera
- Paper and markers

DIRECTIONS:

- Go for a walk with your child and ask them to look for different signs with words on them (road signs, construction signs, bus stop, signs on stores, etc.).
- Let your child take a picture of each sign and help them read the signs.
- Back at home, look at the pictures together (if you have a printer, you can print them).
- Ask your child to copy each sign on paper practising writing each letter and reading the signs.

Click [here](#) for a book to read with your child.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

MY DICTIONARY

MATERIALS:

- A notebook
- A marker or a pen

DIRECTIONS:

- Help your child to find a new word, write it down in the notebook and draw a picture of it.
- Keep adding new words with pictures, 2-3 per page.
- Your child can start with names of favourite things and activities.
- Revisit this dictionary with your child often, reading the entries.
- Later, encourage your child to add more challenging words.

Click [here](#) for a book about a visit to a zoo and lots of health-related words.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

WORD JAR

MATERIALS:

- Paper and a marker
- A jar

DIRECTIONS:

- Every day, write a new word on a small piece of paper and put it in the jar.
- At the end of the week, choose three random words from the jar and make up a story using these words.
- Tell your story to your family.
- Ask your family members to pick their words and make up stories, too.

Click [here](#) for more activities with various words to learn.

Click [here](#) for a story about traveling and learning new words.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR
SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Children need to hear a new word several times before they start using it.
- Use new words in conversations with your child.
- Accompany your words with actions, gestures, or facial expressions for better understanding.
- Read a book with or to your child every day.
- Talk to your child in your native language to maintain connection to your cultural background.