



HELLO PARENTS,

The more words your child hears on a daily basis, the more they will learn, absorb, and eventually put to use themselves. Reading and talking with children daily plays an important role in developing their language and literacy skills. Through everyday conversations and interactions, children learn new and unfamiliar words in familiar contexts, thus expanding their vocabulary. In this newsletter, you will find activities that will engage your child in exploring and discovering new words.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

DIRECTIONS:

- Visit new places with your child every week. For example, different parks, flower nurseries, vegetable patches, etc.
- During your walk, point out interesting and novel objects (a vegetable, a bird, a flower, etc.), name and describe them.
- Follow your child's lead and talk about objects they are interested in.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

SENSORY VOCABULARY

MATERIALS:

- Sandbox
- Sand toys: shovels, cups, spoons, etc.

DIRECTIONS:

- Invite your child to a sandbox.
- Encourage your child to explore the sand using their senses.
- Use descriptive language to talk about what your child sees, feels, smells, etc.
- Add some sand toys into the sandbox, and continue conversing with your child, making sure to expand their vocabulary.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

TELL ME ONCE, TELL ME TWICE

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your child and choose a word. For example, "essential".
- Use the new word in a sentence and expand it into a conversation. For example, say "When we go camping, it is essential to take a tent with us. What else do you think is essential for a camping trip?"
- Ask your child to think of another sentence in which they use the new word, and follow it up with another conversation.
- Encourage your child to incorporate the new word into your daily conversations during the week.
- Every week, choose a new word.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

LICENSE PLATE GAME

DIRECTIONS:

- Go for a walk with your child and look at car license plates in the street.
- Take turns coming up with words that start with each letter on the license plate.
- For your younger children, help them to sound out the letters before they think of words that start with them.
- To make the game more challenging, give yourselves a time limit, for example 30 seconds, to say all the words for each license plate.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

JAR OF WORDS

MATERIALS:

- Jar
- Tape
- Pen
- Paper

DIRECTIONS:

- Find a jar and use tape to label it with "Words".
- Every time you learn a new word, write it on a piece of paper. On the opposite side of the paper, write the word's definition (you can find it in a dictionary). Put the paper inside the jar.
- When you need to take a break from an activity, take out one word and try to form a sentence with it. Practice the words often to become familiar with them.
- Carry the jar with you and read the words on those occasions where you have to sit for a long time, for example when seeing a doctor or traveling.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Create labels for household items to practice new words.
- Play word games together.
- Take ideas or scenes from stories and act them out, incorporating new words into your play.
- Try to use unique descriptive words in daily conversations.