

Daily activities to support word learning

- You don't need anything special to develop your child's vocabulary.
- It's how you talk that makes the difference.
- Children need to hear a word many times before they use it, so do a little every day and you will notice change.

Top tips for developing vocabulary

- **Follow your child's lead:** talk about what your child is focused on.
- **Take turns talking with your child:** a conversation should be balanced with both you and your child taking turns. Don't use too many words. Stopping and listening to your child is equally as important as talking.
- **Use a range of words:** introduce new words to your child, but make sure they are still at the right level. Vocabulary learning is a step-by-step process.
- **Explain what new words mean:** if you use a word your child does not know, explain it in simple terms he or she does know. Relate your explanations to experiences and knowledge your child has.

Things to do every day

Talk about where you are going

On the way somewhere, talk about where you are going and what you will see. Let your child join in as well. In this way, your child hears lots of new vocabulary. On the way home, or another time, talk about what you saw.

Touch, taste and smell

When your child tastes or smells something, use words to describe it other than **nice** or **bad**, eg **creamy** or **bitter**. As they touch interesting things, describe how it feels, using more precise words such as **rough** or **cosy**.

Cooking

Cook with your child and talk about what you are doing. Use interesting words such as **blending**, **rising** and **sprinkle**. It doesn't have to be special biscuits or cakes: get them to help with preparing meals.

Stories

Stories come from books, but they also come from people! Read stories, retell stories you know and make up stories. Talk about past events and let your child join in. Highlight interesting words in books or add your own to your stories.

Play

Play takes children to imaginary places, so join in the journey. Listen to your child and add some talk as you are playing. From time to time, include a new word. You don't have to play for a long time: a few minutes is fine.

(Source: www.hanen.org)