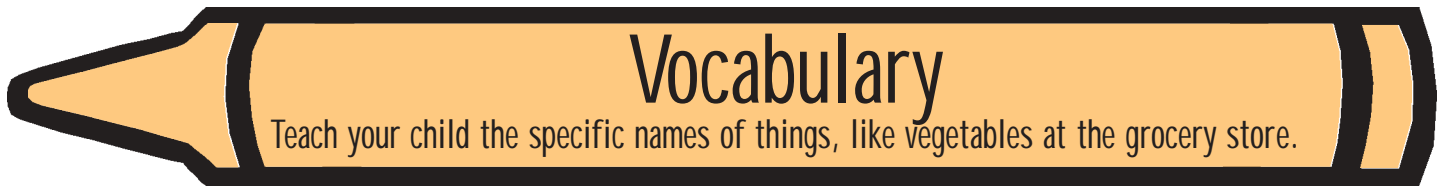




Children who can describe things and events and tell stories are developing **NARRATIVE SKILLS**. Read a favorite book again and again and let your child help you tell the story. Talk to your child about what you are doing; encourage your toddler to tell you about things. Talking with children also develops comprehension skills that will help them understand what they read.



Children who demonstrate **PRINT AWARENESS** not only know how to handle a book and follow the words on a page, but also begin to recognize print in the environment. Use board or cloth books so that your baby or toddler can hold books and learn to feel comfortable with them. Read aloud every day—not just books but labels, signs, menus. Print is everywhere. The ability to recognize print and understand that it is a symbol for words is recognized as a strong factor in early reading achievement.



**VOCABULARY** is knowing the names of things. Talk to your baby or toddler about what is going on around you. When your baby babbles or your child talks, listen carefully and answer. Read together every day. Books have pictures of things you may not see often. By naming the pictures as you point to them, children learn new words. Research shows that children who have larger vocabularies are better readers because knowing many words helps children recognize written words and understand their meaning.

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Knowing that letters are different from each other, knowing their names and sounds, and recognizing letters everywhere demonstrates the preliteracy skill **LETTER KNOWLEDGE**. Help your baby or toddler see and feel different shapes; this will make it easier to recognize differences in letters. Point out letters on toys and objects around the house. Keep a magnetic alphabet on the refrigerator. Read alphabet books.

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The preliteracy skill **PRINT MOTIVATION** refers to an interest in and the enjoyment of books and reading. To encourage your baby or toddler to develop this skill, begin reading books early—even when your child is a newborn. Make book sharing time a special time for you and your little one. Young children who enjoy being read to will naturally want to learn how to read.



# Phonological Awareness

Sing songs, play games & share rhymes to help your child play with the smaller sounds in words.

The term **PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS** refers to the ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words. Singing songs is a good way to help your child hear syllables because, in most songs, each syllable in a word gets a different note. Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme; emphasize the rhyming words. Children who are able to hear the sounds that make words are better able to sound out written words as they begin to read.

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