

# Read-At-Home Plan for Student Success

## Parent Resources

### What is vocabulary?

Vocabulary refers to students' knowledge of and memory for word meanings.

This includes:

- receptive vocabulary (words students understand when they are read or spoken to) and
- expressive vocabulary (words students know well enough to use in speaking and writing).

Having a large receptive and expressive vocabulary assists students with their reading comprehension. A strong vocabulary improves all areas of communication - listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

As a side note:

When we add a student for Language, we are typically speaking about Vocabulary and Comprehension. Seeing language can be confusing but for intervention purpose, it typically does not refer to grammar (nouns, verbs, periods, and capitals, etc.)

This can also be found online on the Cary Woods website under Title I.

# VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

## Everyday Vocabulary Activities

- Read aloud to your child! Even after your child is able to read on their own, continue to read to him/her. Choose books above your child's reading level, which typically have a broader vocabulary. Through read alouds and talking about the book using words from the text, you are actually teaching your child new words and how they are used.
- When cooking, have your child help you read the recipe out loud. Pause to introduce and explain new words. Ask questions about what you're doing to support vocabulary development.  
Example: <https://youtu.be/PKv0Iv30H8Y> <https://youtu.be/y2uEltffyfM>
- Have conversations with your children during dinner. Talking about your child's day at school, weekend plans, or family memories can help grow your child's vocabulary.
- Play Bingo with your child using common contractions. Create a Bingo sheet with completed contractions, and choose from a stack of cards with the broken up contractions. For example, if you drew the card "did not", you would look for the contraction "didn't" on your Bingo sheet.  
Example: <https://youtu.be/KfFadqUFYjM>
- Talk as much as possible about what you see, wherever you are. Have a conversation with your child at the store, describing the items you see. Using words such as first, next, and last, describe the process for pumping gas at the station. Talk about what you taste, smell, feel, and see as you follow a new recipe to make dinner.
- Watch favorite movies and television shows with your child with a focus on listening for big words to start using at home. Add these words into your everyday conversations with your child.  
Example: "Remember how in Power Rangers they morphed, and that meant they changed into superheroes? Can you morph into your school clothes?"

## Learning Word Meaning Activities

- Use pictures from magazines, advertisements, and newspapers to create word collages to show the meanings of new and difficult words. Having a picture to think about will help your child remember the meaning of the word.
- Write targeted vocabulary words on sticky notes and place them on a checkerboard. Play checkers together. When you land on a space with a vocabulary word, give the definition of the word and use it in a sentence to claim it.
- Before reading a book aloud, introduce any challenging or new words. Explain what the words mean and ask your child to say each word. While reading, point out the words and explain their meaning again.  
Examples: <https://youtu.be/FIh6xPV98JY>, <https://youtu.be/ibFW6nXYIkY>, <https://youtu.be/CwtaMwlJgoc>
- Using a ball or soft stuffed animal, play "Vocabulary Hot Potato." The person starting with the "potato" will call out a word, passing the "potato" while music plays. The person who ends up holding the "potato" when the music stops must give a definition and use the word in a sentence.

## Word Connection Activities

- Play a word association game with your child. Call out a category name, and take turns brainstorming other words that make you think of the category word.  
**Example:** "The category is 'places to go on vacation.' "The beach!" "Theme parks!"  
Alternate version: Write down the words as they are brainstormed. Afterward, have your child sort the words into other categories, based on their similarities. Have him/her explain what is similar about all of the words in their new categories.  
**Example:** "I put train, monorail, boats, and strollers in the same category because they are all types of transportation people use at theme parks."
- Practice vocabulary in the kitchen! Pick an ingredient and brainstorm as many words as you can to describe what it looks like, tastes like, feels like, and smells like. Discuss what other recipes use the same ingredient.