

Reading Matters

What is...Vocabulary?

Vocabulary refers to the words we must understand to communicate effectively. There are four types of vocabulary to consider: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

- Listening vocabulary refers to the words we need to know to understand what we hear.
- Speaking vocabulary consists of the words we use when we speak.
- Reading vocabulary refers to the words we need to know to understand what we read.
- Writing vocabulary consists of the words we use in writing.

Vocabulary plays an important part in learning to read. Beginning readers must use the words they hear orally to make sense of the words they see in print. Kids who hear more words spoken at home learn more words and enter school with better vocabularies. This larger vocabulary pays off exponentially as a child progresses through school.

Consider, for example, what happens when a beginning reader comes to the word *dig* in a book. As she begins to figure out the sounds represented by the letters d, i, g, the reader recognizes that the sounds make up a very familiar word that she has heard and said many times. It is harder for a beginning reader to figure out words that are not already part of their speaking (oral) vocabulary.

Vocabulary is key to reading comprehension. Readers cannot understand what they are reading without knowing what most of the words mean. As children learn to read more advanced texts, they must learn the meaning of new words that are not part of their oral vocabulary.

When introducing new words to your young learner, keep the following four helpful hints in mind:

- Provide a simple, kid-friendly definition to the new word
- Provide a simple example that makes sense in their daily life
- Encourage your child to develop their own example
- Keep the new words active within your house

Important Dates:

May 6-10: Spring FAST Testing

May 24: 4/5 Field Day

May 31: K-3 Field Day

Book Recommendations

From Valley Elementary Students!

K/1: Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion by Alex T. Smith

2/3: Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

4/5: Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Check out the Title 1 webpage at...

nfvreadingmatters.weebly.com

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