

How To Increase Your Child's Vocabulary  
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Expanding vocabulary is a lifelong process. Long before a child can speak in simple words, phrases and sentences, the child is forming an extensive vocabulary of words he or she understands. Your child learns that words represent objects and actions. Later a child learns that combined words can be used to change the actions of other people, to reflect on the past, project the future, and to express feelings and ideas. You can help to expand your child's vocabulary in the following ways:

1. Talk, read and sing to your child
2. Provide experiences to stimulate new vocabulary; such as a trip to the grocery store, park, or zoo and talk about what you see and do
3. Use a variety of words in your conversation
4. Repeat new words until your child uses them
5. Add new information to expand on what your child is saying
6. Talk about new situations before you go, when you are there, and again afterward
7. Play word games with antonyms (opposites), synonyms (words that mean the same), and multiple meanings (give two meanings for: rock, calf, match, etc)