

'The Power of Language'

Supporting your child's vocabulary



Building your child's vocabulary at home.

Ideally, a new word needs to be used six to twelve times, in different ways, to be remembered long term. Here are some ideas for repeating and reusing words in interesting ways.

1 Play word Games

You could explore synonyms (words that mean the same thing) together. See how many different words your child can think of for *nice*, *pretty*, or *tall*. Some healthy competition with friends or siblings can help to make this fun.

2 Master meaning

When reading together, ask your child questions focusing around a particular word

Could we say that is selfish? Why? Why not?
Could a selfish person ever be kind? Can you give an example?
Is..... selfish? Could we say they were unselfish?
Does unselfish mean the same thing as kind?

3 Talk at the table

'What do you remember from your lessons today?' "Tell me something new? Something you found difficult?" Encourage lots of detail. You can model this by talking about your own day first. Have a no phones at the table rule.

4 Go for a walk

It is much easier to chat on the go. New words are everywhere. Talk about things you notice, this could be nature, architecture, how things are built, the signage on shops.

5 Model how to learn new words

When you come across a word that you don't know, describe how you are able to determine its meaning by using context clues. Highlight the fact that you are still learning new words as well.

6 Read daily

Read with your child or be seen to be a reading household. Discuss books you are reading or point out online articles. Remember reading is not just a book, it may be articles and blogs linked to social media!