

Did you know....?

Research shows that children who have larger vocabularies are better readers?

Vocabulary is one of the six essential skills children need to learn to read, and vocabulary continues to impact reading comprehension throughout elementary and secondary school.

What can parents do to help children learn new words?

- Explore new places together. Words like “llama”, for example, may look or sound strange to a child, but after watching a llama at a farm, ranch or zoo, the word becomes meaningful.
- Listen to your child’s questions and give clear answers. Point to and label objects and pictures with your toddler. When your older child asks you to define or explain something that is unfamiliar, take the time to look it up in the dictionary, book or internet.... You may both be surprised to discover that baby llamas are called “crias”.
- Ask your child questions. As well as helping children solidify their knowledge, children feel affirmed when adults show genuine interest in hearing what they have just learned. ...“Do you know why llamas spit?”
- Share books daily. Sharing books may mean reading the story or text, but it also includes talking about the pictures or ideas in the book. It involves talking about how ideas in the book relate to your child’s life.

Learning new vocabulary helps children understand the meaning of the words they see in print.

Ontario Early Years Literacy