



FAMILY NEWS

LEARNING ABOUT LANGUAGE

What We Know






Language is one of the building blocks for reading comprehension. Both language and reading words contribute to comprehension.



- The early years of a child's life are a critical time for brain development. Children develop more than 1 million neural connections every second! Boost these "brain connections" through talking to and reading with your child.
- Children learn language skills by listening to the language of adults and other children in their environment. By age 4, most children have heard between 15-45 million words.
- By reading one book per day with your child, you expose them to approximately 78,000 words per year – that's 1.4 million words by the time they enter kindergarten!



How Can You Add Words to a Child's "Word Bank"?

-  Read together! Ask questions about the story as you go and have your child retell the story in their own words.
-  Tell stories! Make up stories, retell true stories, and encourage your child to do the same!
-  Become conversational partners! Ask about your child's day at school and talk while making dinner or at the store together.
-  Introduce new words. Whether reading a book or in daily conversation, add a new word and share what it means. The more times a child hears a new word, the more likely they will be to use it themselves!
-  Ask open-ended questions (questions that elicit more than just a yes/no response) that encourage your child to elaborate on their responses.