



## Vocabulary – Learning New Words

By the age of 6 years children have an estimated vocabulary of around 14,000 words. Based on these numbers, children between 18 months and 6 years would have to learn 8 new words a day.

Parents, education staff and all adults involved with the child need to help them learn these words and use them in the correct context.

### Strategies To Use:

#### 1. Follow the child's lead

Talk about what the child is doing or looking at – they are more likely to listen and learn if the adult follows their lead.

#### 2. Model the words

Regularly use target words in short relevant phrases so the child hears clear examples of how they should be used. The child will need to hear the names of objects many times, e.g.

<b>Target word –</b>	ball
<b>Possible comments –</b>	it's a <i>ball</i>
	kick the <i>ball</i>
	let's make teddy kick the <i>ball</i>



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### 3. Introduce simple vocabulary first

Use simple words first then introduce other words, e.g. talk about '*trousers*' then add '*jeans, dungarees, jogging bottoms*' etc

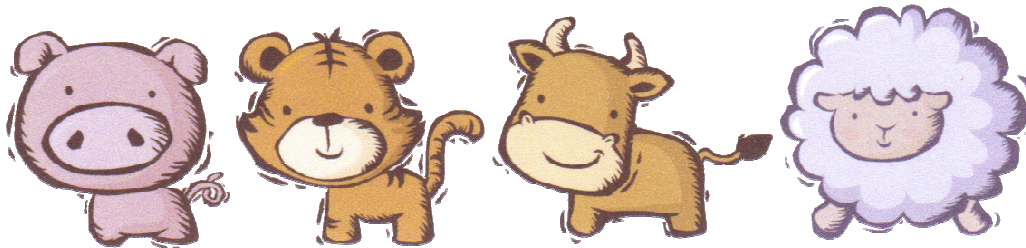
### 4. Use a variety of multi-sensory activities

Allow the child to explore objects through a range of senses, e.g. hearing the word seeing, feeling and sometimes smelling and tasting the object. Use real life situations, play, painting, sharing books, etc.

### 5. Sorting objects/pictures

Thinking of words within families or categories helps to organise vocabulary and make it easier for the child to access words when they need to.

Sorting objects/pictures into 2 categories, start with main categories, e.g. animals, transport, clothes, food, house, park.



Once a child has the idea of the general word family, look at the sub divisions within that category, e.g.

**Animals** : pets, farm, animals that go in water.

**Transport** : road, air, water.

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### 6. Topic Vocabulary

Topic work can provide different and exciting opportunities to learn new vocabulary. Choose key words and ensure everyone working with the child (including parents), are reinforcing the new words.

### 7. Associated words/ideas

Talk about :

- What you do with the object
- Where do you find it
- What it looks like/what it is made of
- What parts it has
- What sounds it begins with

**Example:** Banana

- We eat it
  - We buy it from a shop
  - It is long and yellow
- It begins with 'b'



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