



# Build Children's Everyday Vocabulary

Children's vocabulary grows when they participate in conversations and hear new words. Stressing a new word, repeating it and explaining what it means are great ways to highlight new vocabulary. Here are some fun things to try in everyday situations:

## Play Time

Relate new words to something the child already knows. For example, when pretending to make soup, comment on how the soup is **yummy** and **delicious** just like the child's favourite food - bananas - are **delicious**.



## Daily Activities

While cleaning the floor, introduce words like **spotless**, **squeaky clean** and **slippery**. Ask a question that encourages the child to think about or use a new word, like, "What else is **slippery**?"

## On the Go

When the child talks to you using non-specific words like "it", "this" or "that", be sure to provide the specific vocabulary words that the child is referring to. For example, if the child says, "I need **it** to do **this**", respond with, "You need the stapler to keep your pages together."

## Book Reading

While reading a book, help the child understand a new word by explaining what it is and what it is not. For example, "Animals like bats stay awake at night. They don't sleep at night like we do. We say they are **nocturnal**. Animals who stay awake during the day, like us, are **not nocturnal**."



## Notes