10 WAYS TO BUILD VOCABULARY

1

Word of the Day:
Choose a new word each day to be the word of the day. Teach your child what it means. Use it for them throughout the day and encourage them to use it too!

2

Board Games:
Play board games that focus on using words such as Apples to Apples, Taboo, Blurt, Scattergories, or Boggle. Ask your child to use the words in a sentence. If they can't, model it for them.

3

Go Digital:
There are many different websites and mobile device applications (apps) that help kids practice new vocabulary. Check out these: Flocabulary, Tiny Hands First Words, Starfall, Endless Alphabet, Peek-a-boo Barn, My PlayHome.

4

Detective:
Find a word in a book that you don't know. Write it down, use the dictionary to look up the meaning. Try using the clues from the story to figure it out before you read the definition.

5

The Alphabet Game:
Give your child a category (ex. girl's names, foods, animals, etc.). Challenge them to the alphabet game. Go back and forth saying a word for each letter of the alphabet. A-alligator, B-bear, C-cat, D-dog, until someone can't think of anymore.

6

Make Your Own Dictionary:
Use a notebook or journal to make your own dictionary. Draw pictures to help you remember what the words mean instead of definitions.

7

Describe it:
How many words can you think of to describe it? While eating breakfast, lunch or dinner challenge your kiddo to describe how the food tastes, feels, smells or sounds using as many adjectives as they can.

8

Don't Say it!:
While riding in the car or sitting at home designate a "no-no" word that you can't say for the day (for example, mom or go). Instead of saying the word they must use a synonym.

9

Word Jar:
Create a word jar of words that are tricky for them to understand. Choose one word from the jar each week to learn and use in conversation.

10

Cut it Up:
Take an old newspaper or magazine and cut up words that are tricky to understand. Glue them into a journal or on a piece of paper. Look up the definitions and use them in a sentence.