

Talking with Your Preschooler--Vocabulary

What the Research Says

- The quality of a child's language experiences in the home at age 3 is strongly related to (predicts) eventual reading achievement in 10th grade.
- A child's vocabulary at age 4 is a strong indicator of the child's reading comprehension in 3rd grade.
- On average, children ages 3 and 4 learn 4-6 words each day (5-year-olds can learn 6-9 new words) *if* children hear many words used at home and in their surrounding community.
- At the time when children enter kindergarten, most children have a vocabulary of about 13,000 words.
- Children need to hear words multiple times across different settings and activities before they can fully understand a word's meaning and begin to use it during conversations.
- When parents talk daily with their children, parents and children develop a stronger emotional attachment and bond that in turn, gives their children a greater sense of security, contributing greatly to children's overall sense of well-being.
- When parents talk to their young children and listen to children's thoughts, feelings, and understandings, parents communicate to children that they value their thoughts and feelings.
- When young children grow up feeling that their thoughts and feelings matter to adults, they develop a greater sense of confidence, self-esteem, and self-worth that leads to later academic achievement, success, and overall happiness.