

Parent and Community Resource Coalition

Lakewood Memorial Library

Vocabulary Practice

Students need to see and hear new words many times to learn them. Here are some engaging and active ways for students to practice new words. The idea for these activities is reinforcement-- and fun! (See the White Paper entitled "Word Games" for more ideas.)

Finding Words: Here are several ways to find words to focus upon. Words can be listed (along with a page reference), or your child can use sticky notes to tag pages with the words. Talk with your child about these words—why was this word tricky? Why is this word important? Why do these words fit [this character or this topic]? The conversation will help your child use and learn the words.

- Ask your child to find new or interesting words as he or she reads.
- Ask your child to keep track of important words as s/he reads.
- If reading fiction, ask your child to find words related to the setting or a character.
- If reading nonfiction, ask your child to find words related to the topic.

After you have collected several words, play games with them:

- *Word Riddles:* Make a riddle for one of the words. Ask your child to solve it. Then ask your child to write a riddle for you to solve. (Keep the word list handy for reference.) Example:
 - I have 3 syllables.
 - I have two word parts.
 - One means "light." The other means something written or drawn.
 - I am a picture of something else.
 - What am I? (answer: photograph)
- *Sketch to Stretch:* Provide words written on slips of paper. Ask your child to select one and then to sketch something (no words!) that reveals the word meaning. You or another family member can try to guess the word using the sketch.
- *Word Charades:* Provide words written on slips of paper. Ask your child to select one and then act it out (no words!). You or another family member can try to guess the word.
- *Word Searches:* Go to [Create Your Own Word Search Puzzle | Discovery Education Puzzlemaker](#) to find an easy word search template. You can make one for your child to solve or make one along with your child, who can then solve it. As your child develops skill, he or she can make the word searches independently, perhaps for a sibling or other family member to solve.