



FAMILY NEWS

LEARNING ABOUT LANGUAGE

What We Know


Language is one of the building blocks for reading comprehension. Both language and reading words contribute to comprehension.





- The early years of a child's life are a critical time for brain development. Children develop more than 1 million neural connections every second! Boost these "brain connections" through talking to and reading with your child.
- Children learn language skills by listening to the language of adults and other children in their environment. By age 4, most children have heard between 15-45 million words.
- By reading one book per day with your child, you expose them to approximately 78,000 words per year – that's 1.4 million words by the time they enter kindergarten!





How Can You Add Words to a Child's "Word Bank"?

 Read together! Ask questions about the story as you go and have your child retell the story in their own words.

 Tell stories! Make up stories, retell true stories, and encourage your child to do the same!

 Become conversational partners! Ask about your child's day at school and talk while making dinner or at the store together.

 Introduce new words. Whether reading a book or in daily conversation, add a new word and share what it means. The more times a child hears a new word, the more likely they will be to use it themselves!

 Ask open-ended questions (questions that elicit more than just a yes/no response) that encourage your child to elaborate on their responses.