

Partners in Learning

Video Suite



Vocabulary

For children, vocabulary knowledge means understanding and using words of different forms including nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. They have a word repertoire for precisely representing thoughts, needs, interests and ideas. Children's precision of word use increases from toddlerhood through to adulthood as their word knowledge develops.

What is discussed in this video?

The video contains the Speech Language Pathologist explaining and modelling strategies for developing vocabulary in the early years.

What are the key messages that can be used to inform the school community?

- Children's vocabulary sizes are strongly predicted by their word exposures.
- Young children learn from what they hear; older children and adults learn words from what they read.
- Words are how children express themselves, gather information, play dramatically and explore the world around them.
- Children learn new words more easily if they already have a solid bank of words to build on.
- Vocabulary knowledge during early childhood is positively related to later skills in reading comprehension.
- Children learn vocabulary in two ways. Many are learned *incidentally* through play, overhearing, conversations and social interactions. In order to develop sophisticated language children need to be *taught* using child friendly definitions.
- Create classrooms that support and encourage sophisticated word usage.
- Children need many repetitions and exposures to a word in order to learn it.
- Consider using some of the vocabulary strategies demonstrated during the video.

