

Using Lots of Words: Ages 5-Kindergarten

Knowing and using many different words helps your child:

- Learn to read more easily
- Become a stronger reader
- Make greater academic gains in all subjects



Ideas to try with your child:

- Talk with your child about *everything!* Even talking about things that seem silly can help your child learn new words.
- Encourage your child to use the words they are learning when they talk to other kids or adults.
- Read favorite books over and over to help your child learn and remember the words in those books.

If your child is struggling:

- Give your child pretend phones (or an old cell phone) and encourage them to call and 'talk' to friends, family members, or characters from their favorite book.
- Make up songs about every day activities.
 - "We're walking down the street and using our little feet. I wonder who we'll meet while we're walking down the street?"
- When walking in the park or store have your child talk about how they feel or what they see. Model this for them.
 - "The park makes me happy when I see birds in the trees and kids on the swings."
 - "The smell of the grocery store makes my tummy rumble. How about you?"

Going further:

- Play games that let kids use lots of words:
 - Say a word and see if your child can give you a word that is the opposite (cold/hot, easy/hard) or a word that is the same (cold = freezing, easy = simple)
 - I Spy – "I spy something big, blue, and round. What is it?"
 - What If? – "What would happen if a giant tried to come to school with you?"

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children of Kindergarten age** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012: "Increase vocabulary" Communicating (Literacy), Ages 5-Kindergarten*, pg. 92