

Developing Academic Vocabulary at Home: Parent Workshop

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School District of Lee County, FL**

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Outcomes

Objectives:

- Distinguish different types of vocabulary words
- Identify opportunities for academic vocabulary development at home
- Examine resources to support academic development at home

Agenda

- Benefits of building vocabulary
- Vocabulary size
- Selecting vocabulary words
- Ideas and strategies for developing academic vocabulary at home

Benefits of Building Vocabulary

- A strong vocabulary helps to increase a child's chance for academic success.
- Vocabulary provides a way to comprehend what is read, viewed, or discussed.

Vocabulary Development

- Vocabulary development is a process of acquiring new words to use for learning any language and content.
- Vocabulary development focuses on helping students learn the meaning of new words and concepts in various contexts and across all academic content areas.

Building Vocabulary while Reading¹

- We learn about 25 to 50 percent of words every year through reading.

¹ Nagy, W, Anderson, R. C., & Herman, R. (1987). Learner word meanings from context during normal reading, *American Educational Research Journal*, 24, 237-270.

Receptive Vocabulary Size²

- After children begin understanding words in the first year of life, their listening(receptive vocabulary size increases rapidly.

Age	Number of Words
1 years old	50 words
3 years old	1,000 words
5 years old	10,000 words

Reading Vocabulary Size³

- A child's reading vocabulary increases at a rate of 3,000-4,000 words a year.

Grade	Number of Words
Grade 8	25,000 words
Grade 12	50,000 words

² Shipley, K. G. & McAfee, J G. (2015). Assessment in speech-language pathology: A resource manual. 5th ed. Cengage Learning.

³ Graves, M. F. (2016). The Vocabulary Book: Learning and Instruction. (2nd ed.). Teachers College Press.
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Three Tiers of Vocabulary

Tier 1- Basic words that students often know in their home language and used often in social situations.

- high frequency common words
- simple idioms and everyday expressions
- typically do not have multiple meanings
- do not require direct instruction
- are used to understand more difficult reading
- **Examples:** cat, dog, line up, sit down, family, colors, what's up

Tier 2- General academic words that are used across a variety of school subjects areas

- common in written texts or in conversations with adults
- words that are used to express functions or processes
- words that can be used to teach how words are formed
- words with multiple meaning
- **Examples:** summarize, classify, analyze, compare, diagram, reason, unfortunately, as a result, consequently

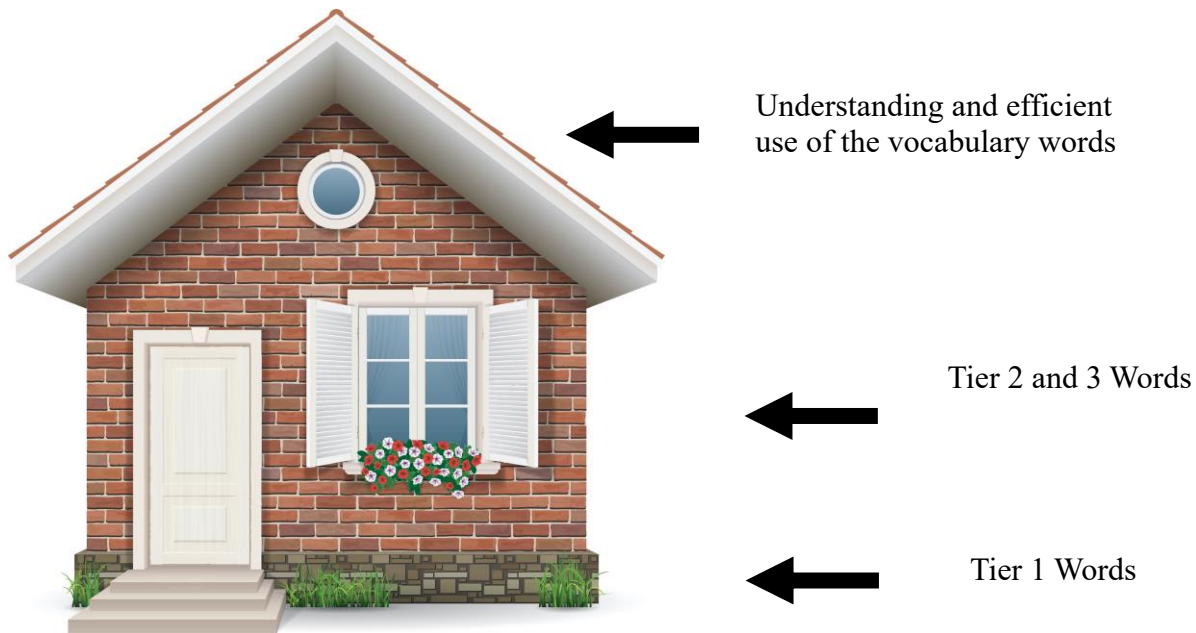
Tier 3- Content-Specific words

- related to a specific academic discipline
- **Examples:** photosynthesis, dehydration, lever, legislative, veto, analogy, oval, elbow, habitat

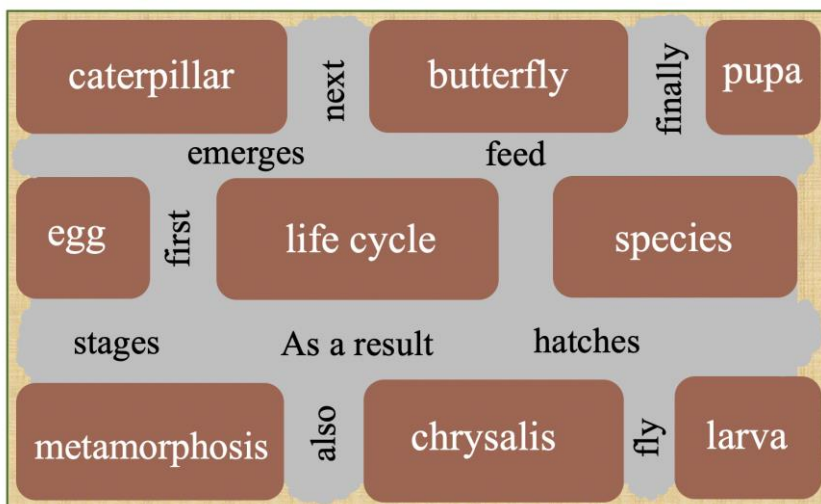


What do you need to build vocabulary?

To understand and use vocabulary words efficiently, students need a strong foundation and multiple opportunities to practice Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 words. This is achieved by listening, speaking, reading and writing.



Key Vocabulary Brick and Mortar



Vocabulary Development at Home

- Provide a simple, child-friendly definition for the new word.
 - **Enormous** means that something is really, really big
- Provide a simple, child-friendly example that makes sense within their daily life.
 - Remember that really big watermelon we got at the grocery store? That was an **enormous** watermelon!
- Keep our new words active within your home.
 - What **enormous** thing can you think of? Can you think of something really big that you saw today? That's right! The bulldozer near the park was **enormous**! Those tires were huge!
- Use actions, gestures, or facial expressions to help your child understand the meaning of words.
- Provide multiple opportunities to hear and learn new words.
- Foster word-learning strategies and curiosity for new words.

Six Steps to Vocabulary Instruction⁴

Step 1 Explain vocabulary

- Tell a story that integrates the vocabulary term.
- Find or create pictures that explain the word.
- View short videos for unknown or more difficult words.
- Use a glossary, dictionary, or thesaurus to determine the meaning of a word.

Step 2 Restate vocabulary

- Ask them questions so they have to explain the meaning in their own words or with examples.
- Share new examples if they did not understand.

Step 3 Show vocabulary

- Model how to use the vocabulary term.
- Provide examples of your own drawings that represent the ideas.
- Children should draw an example of the term.
- Children can find a picture on the Internet.

Step 4 Discuss vocabulary

- Identify synonyms (small, tiny, mini) and antonyms (small-big) for the vocabulary terms.
- List related words. (dog, Chihuahua, canine, domesticated, mammal)
- Sort or classify words
- Ask them if the word is similar in English and your home language - *telephone* (English), *teléfono* (Spanish), *telefon* (Polish) *telefoon* (Somali)
- Help them understand that not all words have the same meaning - *pan* (English) and *pan* (Spanish)
- Talk about words that come from other languages (loan words). *taco* (Spanish) and *pizza* (Italy)
- Analyze multisyllabic words by their meaningful word parts.
- Talk about the meaning of Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots.

Step 5 Refine and reflect

- Ask children to
 - look for connections between words
 - look for connections between what they already know and what they are learning

Step 6 Apply in learning games

- Play vocabulary games with the whole family.

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Adapted from Marzano, R. J. (2020). *Teaching Basic, Advanced, and Academic Vocabulary*. Marzano Resources.

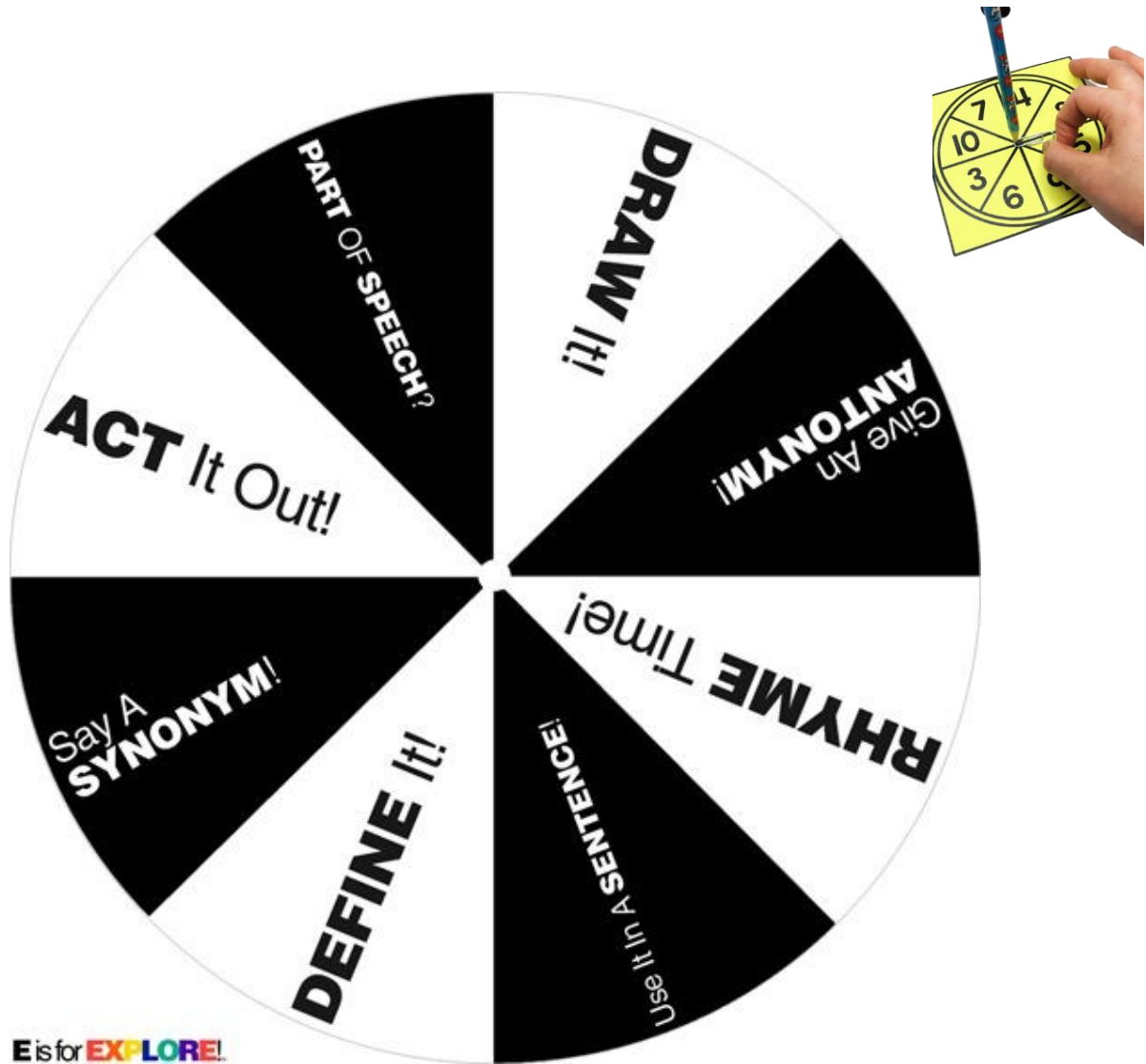
Vocabulary Paint Chips Activity

Word	Word
Definition	Definition
Synonym	Sentence
Sentence	Drawing

Word	Word in English
Synonym	Word in My Language
Synonym	Definition
Synonym	Related Word

Vocabulary Spinner

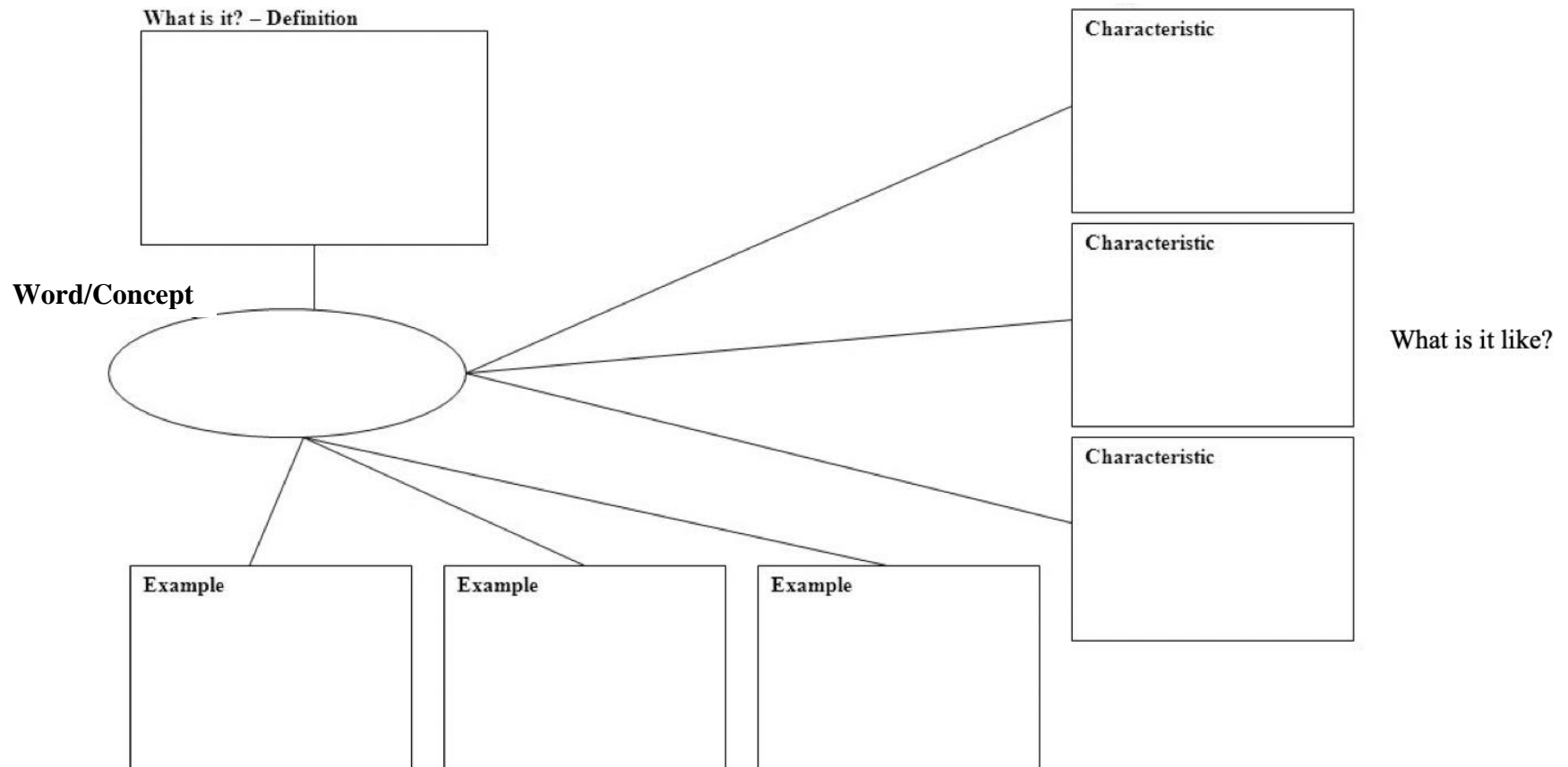
- Read the word. Spin the spinner. Provide correction or praise.
- Wheeldecide.com <https://wheeldecide.com/index.php?id=38693>
- Wordwall.net <https://wordwall.net/resource/7055918/vocabulary-spinner>



ABC Boxes

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z		

Concept Definition Map



Concept Definition Map

Definition

An ecosystem is the system of interactions between living organisms and their environment.

Concept

Ecosystem

Key Vocabulary

Interactions
Population
Specialize
Community
Competition
Symbiosis
Predation
Mutualism
Prey

Warbler birds **specialize** in feeding in different parts of a tree to avoid **competition**.



A ban on deer hunting has consequences for the wolf **population**.



Some **prey** have adaptations to avoid being killed, such as camouflage.



Resources

Resource	Logo	Link	Description
Your Dictionary		https://reference.yourdictionary.com/languages.html	Dictionaries in 300 languages
Learning Chocolate		https://www.learningchocolate.com/	Illustrated dictionary and activities
Learner's Dictionary		https://www.learnersdictionary.com/	English Dictionary and activities
Visuwords		https://visuwords.com/	Visual and interactive dictionary and thesaurus
Wordsmyth		https://www.wordsmyth.net/	Illustrated, and dictionaries for Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced
Word Reference		https://www.wordreference.com/	Multilingual dictionaries and vocabulary lists
Language Guide		https://www.languageguide.org/	Illustrated dictionary with pronunciations and activities

Resources

Resource	Logo	Link	Description
ESL Games +		https://www.eslgamesplus.com/	Vocabulary games and activities
UN World Food Programme		https://freerice.com/categories/english-vocabulary	Vocabulary games
Fun English Games		https://www.funenglishgames.com/	Vocabulary games and activities
Cool English		https://www.coolenglish.net/vocabulary	Vocabulary games
Games to Learn English		https://www.gamestolearnenglish.com/	Vocabulary games
VOA Learning English		https://learningenglish.voanews.com/z/3620	Vocabulary activities
Digital Dialects		https://www.digitaldialects.com/	Vocabulary games in 30+ languages
Turaco Games		https://www.turacogames.com/english/	Vocabulary games