

Children need to learn new words to talk about the things they see and do. You can help build your child's vocabulary by introducing new words and ideas.

If your child has difficulty learning new words, here are some activities you can try:

- ✓ Let your child experience new things. Go on field trips to the zoo, museum, grocery store and playground. Field trips let you talk about new things and ideas.

Example: *"Look, I see an animal that's black and white. It's a zebra."*

- ✓ Introduce a "word of the day." Use the new word many times during the day and encourage your child to use the new word.

Example:

Read the book "Sadie and The Snowman"

Build a snowman.

Make a snowman craft.

Draw a picture of a snowman.

Sing "Frosty The Snowman."

- ✓ Link new words to things and experiences your child already knows.

Example: *"The dinosaur is very big. It's **huge!** Remember the huge dinosaurs in Drumheller? We also saw dinosaurs in the movie, "The Land Before Time."*

- ✓ Help your child learn words that describe things, such as colors, sizes, shapes and textures. Use a guessing game such as "I spy" to help your child learn these words.

Example:

Adult: *I spy with my little eye, something that is **white, soft, has long fur and a cold nose.***

Child: *"I know, I know! It's Rufus the dog."*

- ✓ Teach your child to sort pictures, objects or words into groups. Give each group a name.

Examples:

Collect pictures of animals that live in the zoo or on a farm. Have your child sort them into two groups and provide a name for the groups: zoo animals and farm animals.

Go to the grocery store and look at fruits and vegetables with your child. Teach your child which foods are fruits and which are vegetables.

For more information, contact your community speech-language pathologist.