

Tips for Reading Aloud

VOCABULARY

We know that vocabulary is the primary indicator of school readiness and is a key component of reading success. So how can we work with our students to develop a strong vocabulary to help them be successful readers? Below are two easy approaches to use with your student during a session.

READ ALOUD:

We know our students have higher listening and speaking skills than they have reading and writing skills, so reading books that are full of good vocabulary and interesting storylines develops vocabulary in a fun way. Bring a higher level book with you or utilize the library at your school. Get to know the school librarian and ask her for suggestions. Reading is fun and when we engage our students in interesting stories with great illustrations, not only are they learning new vocabulary, they are also learning to love reading!

USE FOLLOW UP CONVERSATIONS AFTER STUDENT READS:

Although the books at the student's reading level may not utilize higher-level vocabulary, we can introduce new vocabulary words even after reading a lower level book. Have a few higher-level vocabulary words in mind when you finish the story. As you discuss the story, introduce the new vocabulary word.

For example, when you finish a story about a child that found something special, you could introduce the word "treasure":

1. Define the word in a kid friendly way.
2. Use the word "treasure" as it applies to the story.
3. Have the child say the word
4. Have the child write the word
5. Have the child give an example of something that might be a treasure.
6. Try to come up with another situation in which you might use the word.
7. Continue to use the word in conversation in following weeks

Introducing new vocabulary in context is the key to helping grow our student's vocabulary. Have fun with it!

