



Handout

How to Support Your Child's Vocabulary

How to Support Your Child's Vocabulary: Strategies for Learning at Home

★ Talk to your child about what they're reading in school.

- ◆ If they like a certain book series or topic, go to your local library to look for similar books.
- ◆ Get involved! If your child brings home a book, have them tell you about the plot. Ask them questions.

★ Model an appreciation for reading and literature to set an example for your children.

- ◆ Make sure your children see you read for pleasure. Model using books and text to find information and answer questions.

★ Set aside family reading time or read books together as a family.

- ◆ Build family reading time into your schedule so that it becomes routine. For example, dedicate the half hour before bedtime as family reading time.
- ◆ Engage in what you read together as a family. If the book you're reading has a movie, have a family movie night after you finish the book and discuss how the book and movie are the same or different.

★ Take advantage of your school library or local community library.

- ◆ Visit <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/publibs/> to see what libraries are nearby.
- ◆ Find eBooks through your library system
<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/publibs/findebooks.htm>
- ◆ Take advantage of story times or youth book clubs.

★ Stay in contact with your child's teachers and ask how you can support their lessons at home.

- ◆ Ask your child's teacher what method of communication they prefer (e.g., phone or email) and ask them when the best time to contact them is.
- ◆ Check your child's folders for class newsletters to learn more about what their class is doing.

How to Support Your Child's Vocabulary: Resources for Parents

Reading Rockets

<https://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents>

- ❖ A website by PBS focused on providing information on reading and resources for parents and educators.

U.S. Department of Education

<https://www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml>

- ❖ Resources put out by the U.S. DoE for parents on reading development and education in children.

New York State Public Libraries

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/publibs/>

- ❖ Use this link to find your local public library, then search for them to learn more about what they offer.

Scholastic

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/home.html>

- ❖ Scholastic's home page for parents including book recommendations, tips, and resources.

Storyline Online

<https://www.storylineonline.net/>

- ❖ A website where Screen Actors' Guild members read their favorites books aloud for children, includes activities, lesson plans, and suggested grade level.

Bookshare

www.bookshare.org

- ❖ Compendium of audiobooks. Free for eligible students.

YouTube

www.youtube.com

- ❖ Type in virtually any combination of search terms. Type in search engine terms like "read-alouds" and "children's book!!" Hundreds come up!

How to Support Your Child's Vocabulary:

Resources for Families and Caregivers

Learner's Dictionary

This online dictionary by Merriam-Webster's Dictionary is designed to support young learners of all levels who are growing in their vocabulary. Its definitions are worded with simple language that supports vocabulary growth without overwhelming the child with more unknown words. It also provides fun features like "Word of the Day" and "Ask the Editor," providing a variety of opportunities to explore words.

Enjoying Books with Reluctant Readers

This resource is designed to support families of students in grades pre-k through six to develop a consistent interest in reading. It offers caregivers tips about how to spend time reading that engages a child, regardless of reading levels. It also provides guiding questions for adult readers to consider asking their young readers when they are exploring a book together.

Reading Rockets

Building a habit of reading is important when developing language skills. On this parent-focused page, Reading Rockets experts offer simple tips to families about supporting your young reader at home.

PBS Kids

This interactive website offers a wide range of fun opportunities to experience reading and grow a child's vocabulary such as [Read-Alongs](#) and [Vocabulary Games](#). The activities include opportunities for elementary students to listen to books being read in many different languages and exposes children to many different cultures.

Regional Education Lab: Developing Language

The Regional Education Laboratory Program at Florida State University offers a variety of supports organized by grade-level (kindergarten through third grade) to families when reading with their children at home. The first section of the program focuses on language development. Using video examples and other resources, the site shares strategies about talking with your child as you read with them and strategies about engaging your child in reading during everyday life activities such as grocery shopping or cooking.

CDC's Amazing Book for Families

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention offers families and caregivers a wide selection of Early Childhood books at no cost. Families can order the hardcover books or download PDF versions of them in English and Spanish. The CDC encourages families to read, sing, and play with your child every day to foster their continued development.

[U.S. Department of Education](#)

Resources put out by the United States Department of Education on reading development and education in children.

[New York State Public Libraries](#)

Use this link to find your local public library, then search to learn more about what they offer.

[Scholastic](#)

Scholastic's homepage for parents includes book recommendations, tips and resources.

[Storyline Online](#)

This website features Screen Actors Guild members reading their favorite books aloud alongside animated illustrations for children. Each book includes a supplementary curriculum designed to help strengthen comprehension and verbal and written skills for English-language learners.

[Bookshare](#)

Bookshare is an e-book library designed to make reading easier through customizable and accessible e-books. Bookshare is free for U.S. students with qualifying reading barriers.



Produced by the Technical Assistance Partnership for Academics at the University of Albany, SUNY



How to Support Your Child's Vocabulary

Research shows that young children whose parents read aloud to them have better language and literacy skills when they enter school. On the other hand, students who fail to read well in early grades may never catch up to their peers.



Edith B. Ford Memorial Library

The Edith B. Ford Memorial Library provides access to information and programs to inspire lifelong learning for the cultural, educational, and professional enrichment of our community. The libraries of Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, Tioga, and Tompkins County are all unified on a 1-card system allowing library users to use their library card to borrow materials from the 33 libraries which are a part of the Finger Lakes Library System. You may request, pick-up, and return items to any member library and the items will be delivered to the proper library. <https://ovidlibrary.org/>



Little Free Libraries

The Little Free Library is a book sharing movement adopted by many communities, by individuals and organizations. The website has a mapping tool so you can find little libraries near you and the website also has information about a mobile application (app) for both Android and iOS. The app will make it easy to find little libraries in your community. <https://littlefreelibrary.org>



Literacy Volunteers of Seneca County offer one-to-one tutoring at no cost to adults seeking help to improve reading, writing or English language skills. <https://senecaliteracy.com>



Education at WXXI – Learn at Home

<https://www.wxxi.org/education>

WXXI Education is focused on anytime, anywhere **learning** resources to support educators and families whether **learning** is at school or out of school. Online **learning** resources like PBS Learning Media, virtual training and events, live streaming of WXXI-TV & WXXI Kids 24/7 & on-demand players provide educators, students, and families with rich choices for **learning**. In addition, offline learning activities and outdoor learning are provided to use individually or in groups. WXXI supports families and teachers with free resources, so that every student has access to learning opportunities – wherever they are.

Free PBS KIDS Learning Apps <https://www.wxxi.org/education/free-pbs-kids-learning-apps>

WXXI Kids pulled together a list of FREE PBS KIDS apps available for at home and out-of-school **learning**! There is a list of 10 FREE PBS KIDS apps that promote **learning**, curiosity, play, and help kids activate their brains while **learning** at home.

WXXI Kids Club Membership <https://www.wxxi.org/support/kidsclub>

WXXI's **Ready to Learn** program, which increases emergent literacy & **learning** skills and open-ended exploration. The program teaches the appropriate use of public media educational tools to extend **learning** combined with the use of books, games, and hands-on activities.

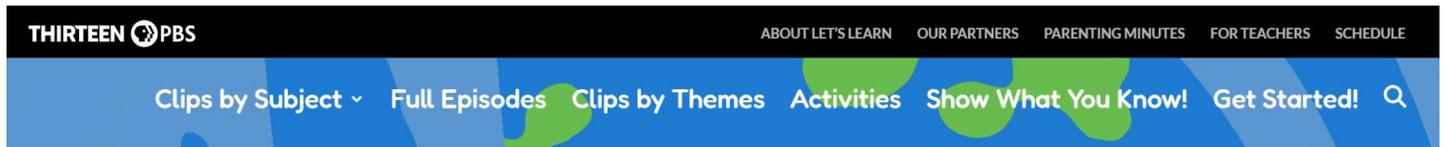
WXXI Education and Outreach – Move to Include <https://movetoinclude.us/partners/wxxi>

WXXI's Education and Outreach Services deliver educational services to the community through educational programming, **Ready To Learn**, resources to preK-12, adult education and out of school **learning** organizations, on-demand educational video, online resources, social media offerings for parents and educators, informal family **learning** events, youth media film festival, in-person outreach initiatives and local educational productions. Move to Include was a partnership with the Golisano Foundation. An Inclusion Playbook guide was created to outline best practices for inclusion.

WXXI Rochester – in Communities <https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/partner/wxxi-rochester>

The Sesame Street in Communities team, based in New York City, works with researchers, providers, and parents to ensure that they address the most current and pressing needs of children. Explore the community digest to learn more about the Sesame Street in Communities model. Sesame Workshop will continue to

collaborate, and each station is partnering with local early childhood programs serving rural families, including those with significant Native American and migrant populations, to support the early learning basics of language, literacy, and math. There is a Parent Portal and a Professional Development channel.



Let's Learn <https://www.letslearn.org/>

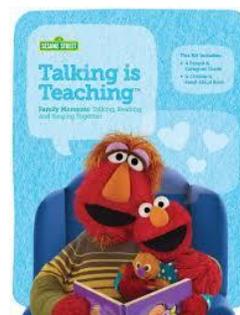
Helps Children ages 3 – 7 with learning in and out of school. There are Clips by Subject and Theme:

- Storybooks: More than 150 picture books by diverse authors and illustrators featuring diverse characters.
- Reading and Writing: Literacy coaches help students build reading skills using long vowels, short vowels, rhyming words, consonants, and blends.
- Math: Engaging lessons on counting and comparing numbers, shapes, addition and subtraction, patterns, measurement, money, and time.
- Science: Educators conduct science experiments and teach lessons about animals, plants, five senses, water, weather, force and motions.
- Arts: Teaching artists show different ways to have creative fun with creating, dancing, making music and pretend.
- Social Studies: Videos explore families and communities, economics, geography, civics and government in the world around us.
- Mind and Movement: Educators help students learn techniques to feel good inside and out by being mindful and moving.
- STEM: Videos explore what's possible with a combination of science, technology, engineering and math to solve problems, build and learn computer coding skills.
- Themes: All About Us, Animals, Babies, Colors, Feelings, Games, I Love Learning, Light, My Five Senses, Plants, Transformation, Transportation, Water and Where We Live.

There are also pages for Parents and Teachers:

- Parenting Minutes are short videos that focus on key topics related to early childhood learning and raising children. Each video page contains shareable tips and facts, as well as links to more free resources and information.

National Resources



The Sesame Street website has many helpful resources for parents including a Family Guide: Talking is Teaching about talking, reading, and singing together for families. There are story books, tips for parents, and activities to enhance the materials and all can be downloaded for free.

The Website <http://talkingisteaching.org/resources/talking-is-teaching-sesame-street-family-guide>



Raising Readers is a site where parents and other caregivers can find free resources in many languages to help support reading. The resources are organized by ages of children so parents and others can find age-appropriate materials to support children birth to age 5. The Raising Readers website has Book Activity Kits, Book Lists and Tip Sheets for parents and other caregivers in many languages. That can be downloaded free of charge. The Website <http://www.raisingreaders.org>



Talk Read Sing Together Everyday

Tip Sheets for Families and Caregivers can be downloaded free of charge. Made specifically for families, caregivers and early educators, these resources can help enrich a child's early language experiences by providing research-based tips for talking, reading, and singing with young children every day beginning from birth. Available in English and Spanish. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/talk-read-and-sing-together-every-day>



Reading Rockets is a national project that offers a wealth of research-based reading strategies, lessons and activities designed to help young children learn how to read and/or read better. The reading resources assist parents, teachers, and other educators in helping struggling readers build fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills in the early elementary years. Many of the documents, tip sheets and parent guides can be downloaded for free are available in many languages to help all families and children become stronger readers. <https://www.readingrockets.org>



Colorín Colorado is a bilingual site for educators and families of English Language Learners (ELLs) in Grades PreK – 12th Grade. The free resources are research-based and designed to provide information, activities and advice to parents, schools, and communities. <https://www.colorincolorado.org>



National PTA

The National PTA has produced a series of Parent Guides that highlight English Language Arts and Literacy, and Mathematics. These guides provide information about the types of things that a student is working on at each grade level. They also provide information and tips for how parents can support learning at home.

<http://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success>

PTA: Family Guides

<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Family-Guides>



Global Family Research Project

Seven Researched Based Ways Families Promote Early Literacy

Promoting literacy and vocabulary development makes a difference in your child's academic progress. Parents who support their child's literacy development is supported by research. Research shows when families:

1. Have ongoing and engaging conversations with their children.
2. Create literacy-friendly environments.
3. Make reading enjoyable.
4. Hold high expectations for their child's learning.
5. Communicate with their child's teacher.
6. Use home language.
7. Visit the library.

The brief goes into more detail about each one of the ideas.

https://globalfrp.org/content/download/88/593/file/Early+Literacy+Brief_Final.pdf

Local and National Resources Handout

Created by the MidWest Early Childhood Family and Community Engagement Center



New York State Education Department
Office of Special Education
Educational Partnership

Early Childhood Family and Community Engagement Center
MID-WEST