

Psych Ed

Assessment Services

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Teaching Vocabulary

1. Read to your child “content-books”, i.e., books about a specific topic to teach information about the world and corresponding vocabulary, e.g. a book about farm animals teaches information and vocabulary necessary to describe the animals.
2. Teach abstract concepts by showing how specific animals are part of a larger group, e.g. dogs and cats are mammals, or pigeon and sparrow are birds; do the same with everyday objects, e.g. fork and knife are cutlery, table and chairs are part of furniture, etc.
3. For children in Grades Five and higher: Make lists of words specific to each course, e.g., history, geography, science and ensure that your child understands them and can read and write them. Practice answering possible test questions using appropriate vocabulary.
4. Pay attention to possible difficulties understanding abstract concepts and their relationships to each other, e.g., town-city–province–country-continent.
5. Help child create a set of test questions before beginning to study and use them as a study guide. Ask child to teach you the material.
6. Teach the child the dictionary definition of one new word a day. Check the next day that the child can still repeat the definition before adding a new word. The WordlyWise3000.com webpage provides vocabulary lists for each grade level.