

# **Psych Ed**

## **Assessment Services**

250 Eglinton Ave. West • Suite 255 • Toronto, On M4R 1A7 • Tel: 416.488.4737 • Fax: 416 488 2913 [www.psych-ed.ca](http://www.psych-ed.ca)

### **Teaching Vocabulary**

1. Read to your child “content-books”, i.e. books about a specific topic, e.g. 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 e.g. showing how specific animals are part of a larger group: 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. 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 “Words are Important” series, available through Amazon, and the [WordlyWise3000.com](http://WordlyWise3000.com) webpage provides vocabulary lists for each grade level.
6. A systematic approach to enrichment of fund of vocabulary should continue in high school by focusing on the vocabulary specific to each course or assigned book. The student should make lists of words specific to each high school course with their definitions. The student needs to memorize the definitions and practice reading and writing these words. Parents and/or tutors should help the student practice answering possible test questions using the appropriate vocabulary.