

# Vocabulary 1-2 years



- While dressing your child ask him/her to point to different clothing items. “Show me your shirt.” After he is familiar with the task ask him to name the items as you put them on him/her.
- See if baby can find simple objects in a picture book such as ball, puppy, shoe, baby.
- During bath time, label body parts as you wash them. See if your child will point to each part when the body parts are named. Use bubble bath and cover up his/her foot, hand or tummy with bubbles and see if she can name the body part that is covered up.
- Improve listening skills and body part identification by saying “Simon Says.” Ask child to “touch nose,” “wiggle fingers,” “close his/her eyes,” etc..
- Old MacDonald is a great song for teaching animal names and the sounds they make. Let your child choose the animal or provide the sound that the animal makes as you sing the song.
- When it’s time to pick up, take turns, say, “Mommy will get the book,” and “Joey get the ball.” “Mommy will get the baby,” “Joey get the boat.”
- Help your child learn new words by providing him/her with experiences. Take your child shopping, to the car wash, to the park, to the library, and tell him the names of everything they come into contact with. One week could be animal week, where you try and find ten animals in your neighborhood or at the local pet store. The next week could be food week where you try new kinds of foods. Make a picture book of all the new things he’s seen and heard and talk about them often.
- During playtime hold up two of your child’s favorite toys and ask him which one he wants. Give him the toy if he names the toy or at least attempts to say the word. This can also be done at mealtime when you ask him what he wants to eat or drink.
- Place five common objects in front of your child such as a cup, ball, book, comb, shoe. Give your child a doll and ask her which one she would give the baby a drink with, read to her, comb her hair with, etc.. Try to get your child to name the object rather than point to it.
- Go through one room of your house with your child. Point to and name the different objects found in each room. Ask the child to name them. Ex. Kitchen table, chair, cupboard, sink, cup, plate, spoon, fork, stove, refrigerator, etc..
- Make lollipop pictures by pasting pictures of common objects onto pieces of construction paper cut into circles. Glue those circles onto colored pipe cleaners or tongue depressors and hold up one lollipop at a time and if the child can name the object or he attempts to name the object he can have the lollipop.
- Use a toy farm set to teach the names of farm animals. Talk about which animal are big and little, where they sleep, what they eat, etc.. Better yet, take them to a farm and show them the real thing.

# Vocabulary 2-3 years



- Cut out pictures of common objects from magazines. Place pictures in a picture cube. Gently roll the cube and name the picture that appears.
- Learn about body parts by pretending to sunbathe with your child. Lie on your back, having the child do the same. The parent says, “Feel your toes, wiggle your toes, lift your legs, feel the sun on your tummy, shake, your tummy.” Continue up to the head.
- Help the child learn body parts and bath time using a washable doll. Ask the child to wash the face, hands, etc. of the doll. When the child consistently responds, switch places and have the parent wash parts of the doll named by the child.
- Talk about body parts while playing in the sand. Cover the child’s hand, foot knee, leg, etc. in the sand and let him find it. Talk about what was hidden.
- Take pictures of relatives (grandparents, cousins) and have the child point to various members as you name them. After the child is familiar with this, have them name the family members.
- Show the child toy animals or pictures of animals. Hide the animal or picture behind your back. Make the animal sound and have the child name the correct animal.
- Go for walks and point out various animals you see- birds, squirrels, cats and dogs. Discuss their size, color, and the sounds they make.
- Play “Let’s Pretend” and ask your child to hop like a bunny, bounce like a ball, roll like a log, wiggle like a snake, walk like a penguin, swim like a fish.
- Place 4-5 toys out on the floor with your child. Ask the child to hand you 1 toy at a time as you name them. See if he can then name them.
- Have a tasting party and talk about the different things you taste: sour, salty, bitter, (taste sugar, lemon, peanut butter, vinegar, etc...)
- Have a tea party and let your child set the table. Ask them what you will need. (Plates, cups, spoons, cookies, etc...) Then take turns counting the plates, passing cookies, and pouring juice.
- Make a book of “Things That Go.” Cut out pictures of vehicles. Glue these to paper, or paper plates, and put them in a folder or envelope.
- Pick out a certain color for the day or week to talk about. Talk about the color of food you eat, things in the house that are the special color, wear that color of clothes.
- Learn to match colors with a button box. Take a small box and divide it into 4 parts or more. (Muffin pans work well) Put a certain color of paper in each section. Have your child sort the buttons by color.
- Go on a “color hunt”. Pick a color such as green and ask the child to find all the green things in the room.
- To teach big and little, gather like objects around the house that are big and little (balls, dolls, shoes, cups) See if your child can pick out the “big” object when paired with a “little “ object.

# Vocabulary 3-4 years



- After a day of activity (swimming, playing at the park, camping, etc.), go over the activity with the child stressing the action. Find pictures from magazines showing these same actions, cut them out, and put them on a bulletin board to remember.
- Use a simple puppet to act out actions (jumping, sleeping, clapping hands). Parent takes the puppet through the actions and the child tries to guess the correct action.
- Use props (drinking glass, chairs, pencil) and ask the child “what do you do with these?”
- Learn about action by asking the child to help you finish simple sentences that you start:  
“I talk with my (mouth).”  
“I hear with my (ears).”
- After the child is comfortable with this task, turn the sentence around. “I (walk) with my feet.”
- Learn names of food. Have children pass real or play food from one to another with music playing. When the music stops ask, “Who has the apple?”
- Let the child make pretend food with play dough using cookie cutters, rolling pin, etc.
- Act out various animal movements. Place 5 pictures of animals in front of the child (snake, turtle, elephant, etc.) Decide which animal you will be and imitate its movements. Have the child guess what animal makes the movement.
- On a trip or riding around town, point out and name the different transportation vehicles you might see. Play a game and have your child look for a fire truck, police car, ambulance, bus, jeep, car, van etc.
- Use daily activities as language learning experiences. As you cook, talk about different kinds of food, that color of it, hot/cold, and taste. In the garage discuss tools and their uses. While making the beds, discuss hard/soft and big/small.
- Make an animal mobile by cutting out pictures of animals from magazines. Glue pictures to cardboard and punch a hole in the cardboard. String yarn through the hole in the picture and tie it to a coat hanger.
- Talk about old/new concepts using household objects. Compare old/new toys clothes, shoes, etc.
- Practice matching and sorting. Discuss likeness and differences. Sort silverware, plastic dishes, buttons, etc. Discuss food as you put away groceries. Sort food cans, vegetables, fruits, things that belong in the refrigerator, etc.
- Cut out simple shapes from construction paper (square, circle, and triangle) and place them on the floor. Ask the child to place one part of his body on a certain shape. Example: “Put your hand on the circle.”
- Draw three simple shapes on cardboard. Pick one shape for the week and talk about it. “This is a circle. It is round.” Each day do something new to teach that shape.
  - Day 1 - Find ten things in the house that are shaped like a circle.
  - Day 2 - Eat something shaped like a circle, Cheerios, M&Ms, etc.
  - Day 3 - Make sugar cookies and use a round cookie cutter.
  - Day 4 - Take a paintbrush and a bucket of water and paint circles on the sidewalk.
  - Day 5 - Make a large circle on the floor using masking tape and march around the circle to music.
- Play dress-up. Give your children adults clothes and let them have fun playing dress-up. Talk about each article of clothing and who would wear it.
- Play a guessing game using picture of household objects and ask the child “Where would we find this?” (sink, bed, soap, towel, etc.) Then, reverse the game and have them three things you would find in the kitchen, bedroom, etc.
- Help children learn the associations between objects and function. Glue pictures of common objects on construction paper (comb, block, key, rink, etc). Do not name the picture or let the child see it. Tape the picture on the back of the child and give clues about the object. The child attempts to guess what it is.
- To teach vocabulary using emotions (happy, sad, afraid, mad, etc.) Play “Make a Face” in the mirror. Have your child make a face showing each emotion.

# Vocabulary 4-5 years

- Cut out pictures of the bedroom, kitchen, and living room furniture from catalogues or magazines. Put masking tape on the floor as outlines for the rooms in the house. Let the children pick 1 picture at a time from a sack, name the furniture, and place it in the correct room.

- Teach children about different names of clothing as you fold the clothes. Name items and discuss when you wear them (at night, for play, swimming, cold and hot weather clothes, baby, daddy, or mommy's clothes).

- Discuss various activities appropriate to the seasons. Summer- swimming, baseball Fall- raking, jack-o-lantern Winter-sledding, ice skating Spring- flying a kite, growing flowers. Name the seasons and then pantomime the activity to see if child can correctly guess the action.

- Talk about different emotions: happy, sad, mad, etc. Cut out or draw a face showing that feeling. Glue picture of face on 1 side of paper plate. On the other side of the paper plate glue pictures of things that make you feel that emotion.

**Example:** happy face on 1 side, other side shows pictures of things, which make you happy.

- Cut out pictures from magazines showing morning, noon, and night. Have the child go through magazines for food you eat at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Cut these out and glue to correct paper showing that time of day.

- Collect items associated with restaurants, grocery store, post office, etc. Keep these together in a box. Have child pick 1 item from the box. Discuss object and how they relate to category. Continue with another item and so on.

- Do animal riddles. Give clue and have the child guess the animal. Children can also practice making their own riddles. "What animal has long legs, long neck, and spots?" (giraffe) "What animal lives on a farm and gives us milk?" (cow)

- Play a game taking turns naming things that belong in a certain category: things made of wood, things made of metal, desserts, community helpers, things with 4 legs, transportation, drinks, things that fly, Halloween things, fruit, vegetables, things you would walk on.



- Have your child help you in the kitchen while you are baking. Discuss what you are doing such as pouring, mixing, and baking. Stress the actions involved. Enjoy the finished product together.

- Point to and name common parts of the body on the child. Draw a head and body with parts missing. Have the child tell you what's missing and draw it in.

- Get different colored balloons and have a water balloon toss. Divide the colored water balloons between the parent and child having the child name the colors of his balloons.

- Discuss colors of food at mealtime: white milk, yellow butter, orange carrots, etc.

- Cut out pictures of food we eat and things we drink. Sort them out with the children: "Do we eat or drink this?"

- Cut out different activity pictures from magazines. Ask the child if you do the action in the morning or night? Example: getting out of bed, eating breakfast, dressing, going to sleep, turning off the light.

- Make a weather chart using a paper plate. Divide the plate into 4 parts to show rainy, cloudy, sunny and snowy weather. Glue a cotton ball on cloudy, draw snowflakes on snowy, tape a yellow piece of paper in the shape of the sun for sunny, and draw raindrops to show raining.

# Vocabulary 4-5 years

## Continued .....

- Cut a small arrow from construction paper and attach to the middle of the plate with a brass fastener. Have the child make an arrow to appropriate weather for the day.
- Tell about what the child did yesterday or this morning. Discuss what you will do today and tomorrow.
- Talk about special days: birthdays, holidays, visits to friends, etc.
- Give the child magazines, newspapers, grocery ads. Ask the child to find and cut out things we eat, drink, animals they know, ect.
- Make a Lotto Board Game using sets of pictures that go together (kitchen and stove, bedroom and bed, barn and cow, toothbrush and toothpaste). Paste 1 picture of each set on the large board and the other picture of each set on small pieces of cardboard, one to each card. Have your child match the small pictures to the large lotto board and tell why they go together. Variation: use opposites.
- Get old catalogs and cut out pictures of clothing that is appropriate for each season (swimsuit, shorts, etc.) Talk about the seasons and have your child tell which season you would wear the clothes and whether it is hot/cold, sunny/cloudy, snowy/rainy, etc.
- Have a Scavenger Hunt. Give your child a paper sack and take them on a scavenger hunt outside. Make up a list of things they should find: 2 leaves, 1 red thing, 1 circle object, 2 green things.
- Glue a picture of a happy, sad, mad child to cardboard and then cut into a simple puzzle. Give your child the puzzle to put together and tell you what the picture shows.
- Use a laundry basket and play Simon says: crawl in the basket, out, under, over, on top, etc.
- Place objects in various positions and have your child get the one “next to the truck,” “beside the ball,” and “under the table.” Then let them place the objects around the room and ask the “Where is the ball?” Prompt them by saying, “Is the ball under the table?” Have them name the position it is in.
- To teach size/shape concepts pick a particular word for the day and try to find objects that fit that word: (tall/short, fat/thin, big/little). At the grocery store, park, or outside, look for objects that are thin/ fat etc.
- Cut out pictures of toys from the catalogue and glue to cardboard. Lay the pictures out and ask your child to find the one that bounces, one that says “mama,” the one you talk on, one that floats in the water, etc. Let him pick a picture and tell all the thing you can do with it (ball- roll, kick, bounce, throw doll- feed, rock, kiss, hug, change diapers, dress).
- To teach transportation cut out pictures of different vehicles ( cars, boats, trucks, airplanes, trains) and glue to a background colored with sky, lake, train tracks, and roads.

# VOCABULARY WORD LIST

## Body Parts

\*ear  
\*eye  
face  
hair  
mouth  
\*nose  
teeth  
tongue  
arm  
hand  
thumb  
fingers  
feet  
leg  
head  
tummy  
knee  
elbow

## People

\*mommy  
\*daddy  
\*brother  
\*sister  
\*baby  
grandpa  
grandma  
aunt  
uncle  
cousin  
\*boy  
\*girl  
mailman  
fireman  
policeman  
doctor  
dentist  
nurse  
teacher  
babysitter

## Actions

combing  
brushing  
\*eating  
drinking  
talking  
walking  
washing  
coloring  
playing  
laughing  
crying  
sitting  
sleeping  
riding  
running  
pouring  
cutting  
throwing  
\*going  
\*coming  
kicking  
blowing  
sweeping  
\*wanting  
painting  
\*giving  
\*looking  
jumping  
standing  
\*bye-bye

## Emotion

happy  
laughing  
smiling  
angry  
mad  
afraid  
sad  
crying  
love  
kiss  
hug  
\*surprise

## Time

yesterday  
today  
tomorrow  
morning  
afternoon  
night  
first  
next  
lost  
old  
new

## Pronouns

\*me  
\*mine  
\*it  
\*I  
\*Who  
\*What

## Color

red  
yellow  
green  
blue  
orange  
purple  
brown  
black  
white

## Position

\*up  
\*down  
\*on  
\*under  
\*in  
\*out  
beside  
next to  
behind  
in front of  
first  
next  
last  
in the middle  
standing  
on your back  
on your side  
on your tummy  
sitting

## Adverbs

\*no  
\*please  
\*yes  
\*thank-you  
\*here  
\*not  
\*where  
\*when

## Weather

\*hot  
\*cold  
summer  
winter  
spring  
fall  
rainy  
windy  
snowy  
cloud  
sunny

## Adjectives

\*big  
\*pretty  
\*bad  
\*good  
\*little  
\*nice  
\*more  
\*another  
\*strong  
\*all gone

## Conjunctions

\*and  
\*so  
\*but  
\*or  
\*because  
\*if

## Articles

\*an  
\*a  
\*the

## Animals

bird  
\*cat  
chicken  
cow  
\*dog  
duck  
fish  
\*horse  
rabbit  
pig  
sheep  
monkey  
\*puppy

## Toys

\*ball  
clay  
balloon  
wagon  
\*car  
truck  
bus  
crayons  
paint  
paint brush  
\*doll  
telephone  
jack-in-the-box  
blocks  
\*boat  
top  
rattle  
bell  
bubbles  
toy dishes

## Household

\*door  
\*bed  
\*bottle  
\*chair  
bedroom  
bathroom  
kitchen  
living room  
dining room  
floor  
ceiling  
window  
chest  
clock  
crib  
lamp  
sofa  
sink  
refrigerator  
\*book  
table  
\*tv  
stove  
bathtub  
mirror  
radio  
telephone  
broom  
iron  
\*paper  
soap  
toothbrush  
towel  
washcloth  
bowl  
can  
\*cup  
\*fork  
\*spoon  
\*knife  
glass  
plate

## Clothing

coat  
\*hat  
socks  
\*shoes  
purse  
Shirt  
pants  
dress  
pajamas  
watch  
bib  
diapers  
mittens  
sweater  
necklace  
glasses  
ring  
belt  
umbrella

## Food

Cake  
Candy  
Cookie  
Cracker  
French fries  
\*milk  
ice cream  
meat  
hamburger  
chicken  
soup  
juice  
oranges  
apple  
\*pop  
banana  
bread  
cereal  
pudding

## Transportation

\*boat  
\*car  
\*airplane  
truck  
bicycle  
bus  
train  
tricycle  
wagon

## Interjections

\*oh oh  
\*hi

\*Indicates first  
words commonly  
used by children