



Mosman Park Primary School

Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to the list of all the words a reader knows. Students must know the meanings of words and how they work. As students are exposed to a wider variety of texts, they will encounter words with less common letter patterns and sound–symbol relationships, and it is helpful for them to begin to collect evidence to support and challenge their growing understandings. For instance, they may investigate and collect words from other languages, words with common bases or words containing the same letter patterns that represent different sounds. Not only will activities such as these support students’ reading development, they will support writing and spelling development as well.

First Steps: Reading Resource Book

To support your child in gaining a stronger understanding of the meanings of words, there are a number of things parents can do. It is important to remember that as students get older, more sophisticated technical and literary vocabulary is required. They cannot get this by talking with adults alone, these words come from reading.

Ideas to support your child’s vocabulary:

- Read books with your child that are a little harder than they are able to read alone. Get them to practise working out what difficult words might mean. Ask them to use the following strategies:
 1. Check the parts of the word that they know.
 2. Blend the sound of the word together.
 3. Identify the prefix, suffix or root words.
 4. Think if the word reminds them of another similar word they’ve seen before.
 5. Read on to look for clues.
 6. Substitute another word that makes sense within the context of what they are reading. Then reread the sentence to see if the word they figured out made sense.

- Make sure your child is reading books that are not too hard for them, but which have an appropriately wide vocabulary.
- Have a word of the day or week. Get your child to see how often they can use that word in speaking and writing. Join in with them by using that word yourself when your child is with you.
- Make sure your child is reading a variety of texts so that their vocabulary is being extended. You can get them to fill in a grid with a range of text types listed and then get them to tick each type off as they read them.
- When they are writing, they can use the computer to help them find alternative words to make their writing more interesting. Simply right-click on your word and select 'synonyms'. A list of possible alternatives should come up. Alternatively, use a thesaurus.