

Dialogic Reading Interactive Reading

Part I: Tips to Build Vocabulary

Ask "what" questions

"What's this?" as you point to a picture of a cow.

Acknowledge and repeat what your child says

"Yes, a cow!"

Add a bit more information.

"A white cow with black spots." or "We get milk from cows."

Follow answers with another question to expand on what child says

What is the cow doing?

Help your child as needed

Be patient. Wait 5 – 12 seconds for your child to respond.

Give answer and child repeats

Encourage your child

Follow your child's interests

Part II: Tips to Build Sentence Skills

Ask "open-ended" questions:

- What's going on here?
- Tell me what you see on this page.

Follow answers with another question:

- What else do you see on this page?
- I wonder how . . .
- How did that happen?
- What do you think will happen next?
- How do you think the character is feeling?
- When have you felt that way?
- When did you?
- Remember when . . . Tell me about it.

Some harder questions

- Why do you think the character feels that way?
- Why did the character do that?
- What do you think?

Expand on what your child says

Add new words, ideas, information

Help your child repeat your longer phrases

HAVE FUN!



Books for Dialogic Reading

We have a conversation around the book.

We do not read the text or follow the storyline.

What kinds of books work best?

Books that

- Are interesting to your child
- Have clear pictures
- Have a simple story
- Are not too long
- Have pictures of things that are familiar to your child
- Show action and detail in the pictures

Dialogic reading is a way to build your children's pre-reading skills:

Vocabulary—you add less familiar words to what they say

Their knowledge about the world—you add information to what they say

Narrative Skills—supporting their ability to tell and retell stories or events

How books work—let them turn the pages

Their interests and enjoyment around books—follow their lead, relate what is happening in the book to their own experiences

Visit your local public library.
Ask library staff for more suggestions!