



Look at the mail together to encourage the use of new words. Talk about the person who brings the mail and where it comes from. Talk about the different kinds of stamps.

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Watch the weather report together on TV to help your child learn about time concepts (*yesterday, today, tomorrow*) and contrasting words (*same/different*). Talk about how tomorrow's weather may be the *same* or *different* from today's.

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Encourage your child to ask you about new words he hears. Talk about what the new word means. Relate the new word to a familiar word or concept. Use the word in a sentence and encourage your child to do the same.

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Give your child alternative new names for clothing. Use *jeans* or *shorts* for *pants*. Use *sandals, sneakers, or dress shoes* for *shoes*. Use *short-sleeve shirt* or *t-shirt* for *shirt*.



Talk about the weather conditions to help your child learn about opposites (*hot/cold, sunny/cloudy, windy/rainy, stormy/clear*).

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Help your child understand and use words that convey spatial relations. As your child is building a sandcastle in a sandbox or on the beach, give directions using words such as *on top of, in front of, and next to*.

Encourage your child to give you directions when you are building in the sand.

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Help your child learn about comparative words. Look for things that are the *biggest* and the *smallest* (*biggest tree, smallest fence, biggest house, smallest animal*).

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Play games to help your child learn words that go together. Provide a variety of objects or pictures to sort according to size, color, or category name. Ask your child to group pictures of different animals, flowers, and vehicles. See how many different ways your child can sort the same items.



Talk about word categories as you ride in the car. Find different kinds of stores, vehicles, trees, and animals.

Ask your child how the items are the *same* or *different* in each category.

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Practice your child's full name and home address (*street, city, state*). Put it into a song (*Tommy Parks lives on Elm Street, Elm Street, Elm Street. Where is Elm Street, Elm Street, Elm Street? That's in Detroit, Michigan. Yes it is!*).

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Help your child respond to *why?* questions. While you are in the car, ask thought-provoking questions. *Why do you need to go to bed early? Why are we going to the grocery store? Why do we need to eat lunch?*

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Help your child learn about related words while you are traveling on a bus. After you name three colors, ask her to say another color. Continue this game with letters, numbers, furniture, clothes, family members, animals, or any other word category.



Help your child use descriptive words.

Visit the bakery section and read the signs aloud. Talk about what a baker does. Use words to describe the smells and tastes of the treats.

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Help your child to use comparative words like *big, bigger, and biggest*.

Compare the items that you see and buy in the grocery store. *This can is big, but this can is bigger. This box of spaghetti is longer than this box of rice. This is the biggest bag of chips.*

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Help your child use contrasting words. Look at two boxes of cereal and talk about the way the boxes are the *same* or *different*. *This box is big and this one is small. This box of spaghetti is long and narrow and this box of rice is wide and short.*

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Talk about the food groups or categories you see in the market (*fruits, vegetables, and drinks*). Talk about how they are the *same* and how they are *different*.