

Vocabulary // Aged 3 - 4

Most words are best learnt through **spontaneous use during everyday activities**. Help the child by using short simple sentences.



Lots of repetition. Children need to hear a word many times and in many different situations before they fully understand it's meaning.

Action words

Children need to learn a range of action words as well as the names of objects. Talk about your actions during everyday activities, e.g.

- Cooking – pouring, stirring, mixing...
- Play outside – jumping, hopping, skipping...
- Crafts – cutting, sticking, decorating...
- Sand pit – scooping, patting, tapping...

Feely Bag

Find things that have a variety of interesting textures, e.g. a flannel, a kiwi fruit, a toothbrush. Put them in a bag. Let the child put his/her hand into the bag, and feel the item. They can either say how it feels (e.g. it's soft, hard, squishy...) or what they think the item is. When they bring the item out, talk together about what they found in the bag, and what it looks like, smells like, how it feels, etc. This game helps children learn describing words.

Follow the child's lead to talk about what they are interested in. Tell them the names of objects or activities they are interested in that are associated with this topic.

