



July 20, 2026

Parent Corner

Parents are a child's first and most influential teachers. Parent Corner offers simple, practical ways to support learning at home, strengthen family literacy, and build meaningful connections through everyday moments. Together, we can help children develop a lifelong love of learning and reading.

5 Ways Parents Can Build Vocabulary at Home

By Dr. Danielle Ramseur-Fischer

Vocabulary is one of the strongest predictors of later reading success. Research has consistently shown that children who are exposed to rich language experiences, meaningful conversations, and frequent reading develop stronger vocabularies, stronger comprehension skills, and greater confidence as readers. The words children hear today become the foundation for the books they will read tomorrow.

The good news is that building vocabulary doesn't require expensive programs or hours of instruction. Some of the most effective learning happens during everyday moments at home.

Here are five simple strategies that made a difference in my own family and can help yours as well.

1. Label Everyday Objects Around Your Home

When my children were young, I labeled everyday items throughout our home.

Door.

Clock.

Table.

Chair.

Wall.

Television.

Phone.

Stove.

At first, it may seem simple, but children begin recognizing the printed word while connecting it to the actual object. Over time, they recognize the word, understand its meaning, and begin noticing how it is spelled. This simple activity supports vocabulary development, word recognition, and early spelling skills.

2. Read Every Day

One of the greatest gifts you can give your child is the gift of reading together.

Reading exposes children to words they may never hear in everyday conversation. It builds vocabulary, strengthens comprehension, develops fluency, and encourages imagination.

Most importantly, reading together creates positive memories around books. Children who experience the joy of reading with someone they love are more likely to become lifelong readers.

3. Be Intentional About Talking With Your Child

Never underestimate the power of conversation.

Talk while preparing dinner.

Talk while driving.

Talk while shopping.

Talk while taking a walk.

Ask questions. Listen carefully. Introduce new words naturally during everyday conversations.

These daily interactions help children expand their vocabulary, strengthen communication skills, and develop knowledge about the world around them.

4. Build a Home Library

Every child deserves access to books.

Your home library doesn't have to be large or expensive. Start with books your child enjoys and continue adding to the collection over time.

When books surround children, they begin making their own reading choices. They discover favorite authors, explore new interests, and develop independence as readers.

A home library communicates one important message:

Books matter here.

5. Make the Public Library Part of Your Family Routine

One of the greatest resources available to families is the public library.

Sign your child up for a library card and make library visits part of your weekly or monthly routine.

Libraries offer so much more than books. Many provide story times, educational programs, family activities, and community events—all at no cost.

Most importantly, libraries open the door to unlimited adventures. A child can travel through history, explore the ocean, visit outer space, or walk alongside dinosaurs—all without ever leaving home.

Final Thoughts

Building your child's vocabulary doesn't require perfection. It simply requires consistency.

The conversations you have today...

The books you read together...

The labels on your refrigerator...

The trips to the library...

These small moments become the building blocks of strong readers, confident communicators, and lifelong learners.

Thank you for spending time investing in your child's future.

I hope these five ideas encourage you to make literacy a joyful part of everyday life.