

# February



Language Delays



## Expose children to rare and unusual vocabulary

As children learn basic words to communicate their needs, build on their interests to expose them to more sophisticated words that they don't hear in everyday conversations. Even very young children can start to learn these words, even though it will be a long time before they use them. Explain and repeat these words in different situations to help them develop a full understanding of the word's meaning. Knowledge of a greater variety of words helps children to understand what they read and gives them the background knowledge they will need in subjects like science, history, geography and math.

### For children with language delays

Children with language delays and English Language Learners may miss out on learning the more sophisticated words that they will need for literacy and academic success. Explain new words and connect higher level vocabulary to words children already know and repeat them whenever possible throughout the day.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Daily Activities

While getting ready to go outside, introduce a more advanced vocabulary word by using a comment. For example, while putting on a thick winter jacket, you could exaggerate the word "parka." Explain, "A parka is a big, warm coat with a hood." Find opportunities to repeat the word throughout the day by commenting on other people wearing their parka outside.



Do stretching exercises together, introducing new words like **biceps** and **quadriceps**. On your own body, show the child where she can feel these parts of her body, and explain that these are important muscles that allow us to use our bodies for different actions. Ask the child to think of what actions **biceps** or **quadriceps** might help us do.

Play Time

As you play with plastic toy animals with a child, introduce a more sophisticated word by demonstrating it with the toy. For example, instead of moving your toy horse and saying, "My horse is walking", you could say, "Look, my horse is **trotting**." By showing the child what the word means, you help her understand its meaning.



While playing with a toy farm and animals, introduce words like **pasture**, **cattle**, **livestock** and **harvest**. To repeat the words again, read a book about farms, search the web for more information or visit a farm!

Book Reading

Introduce the idea of **synonyms** - different words that mean the same thing. Have the child pick a word they already know from a familiar story and brainstorm a synonym together. For example, 'fearful' is a word that means the same as 'scared.' Practice using it in a sentence or even replacing the original word in the story with the new synonym as you read.



Look for a book on a topic that interests the child. As you share the book, talk about the meaning of any new words. For example, if the child is interested in space, explain the meaning of words like **planet**, **asteroid**, **meteor**, etc. Make a point of looking at the sky when outside and repeat the words again.

On the Screen

While listening to a children's audio book, pause when you hear an unusual word. Ask if the child has ever heard this word, or if he knows what it means. Draw on the child's existing knowledge and experience by relating the rare vocabulary word to one that he already knows. Repeat the word several times during your discussion to make it more memorable.



Select an e-book on a topic that interests your child and that has an uncommon word in the title. For example, if your child likes dinosaurs, choose an e-book with an unfamiliar word like **Cretaceous** or **paleontologist**. Then look at the book together to find out what the word means. You can also search for the word using a fun, child-oriented search engine like KidRex or Ask Kids.