

How To Help Your Child With Reading Skills Even If He/She Won't Open A Book!

1) Build vocabulary by TALKING!

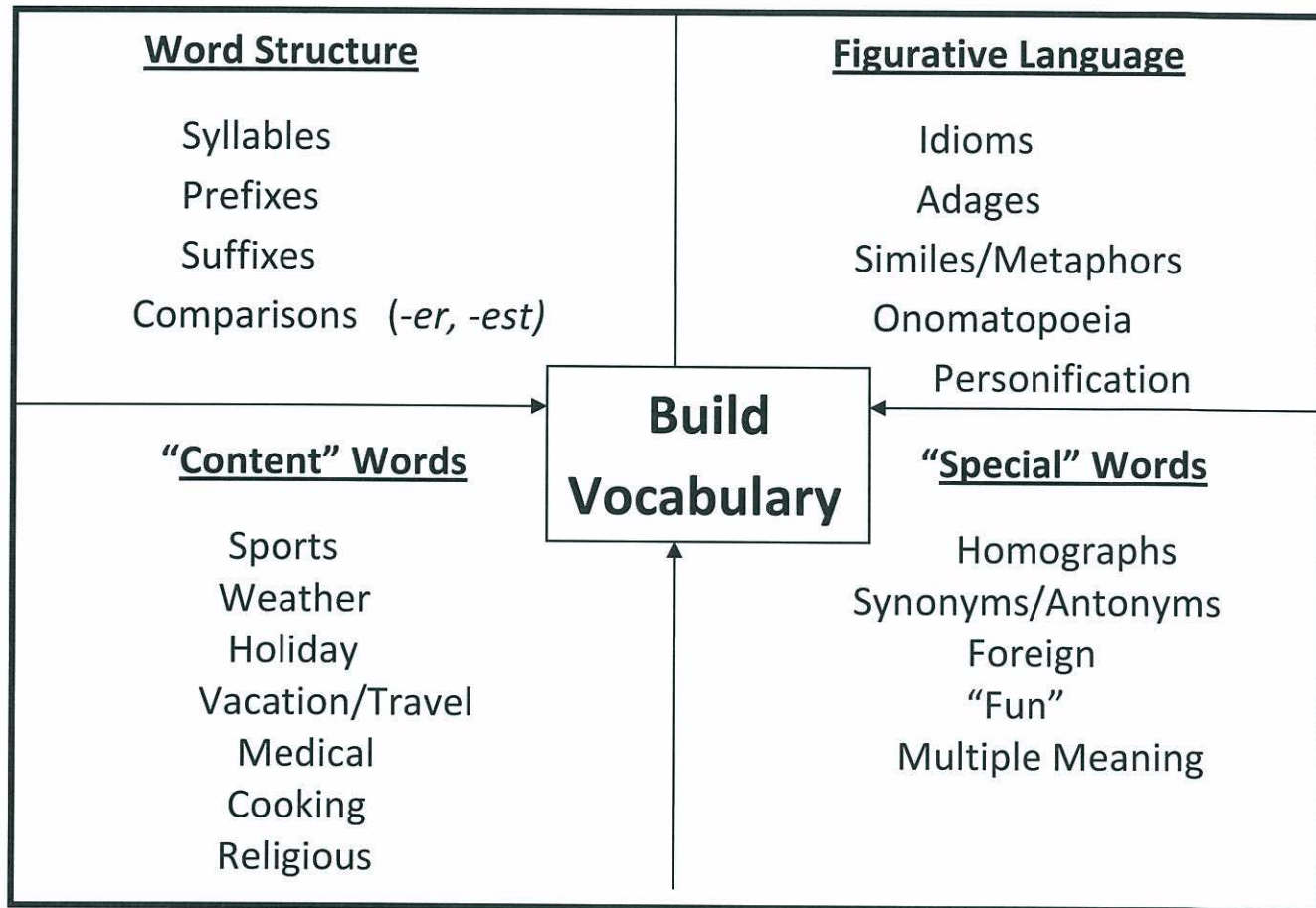
- Discuss "content" words: weather, sports, holidays, vacation/travel, religious, medical, foreign, food/cooking, science
- Listen for and discuss: similes, metaphors, alliteration (repetition of beginning sound)
idioms ("I was a sitting duck.")
adages ("The early bird gets the worm.")
- Discuss multiple meaning words: bank, table
- Watch/listen for interesting words in daily life! Discuss and learn about those words with your child. Reward family members who use the new words or expressions in daily language! (Think commercials, signs, menus)
- Play board games such as Boggle, Scrabble, Word Jumbles (make your own!)

2) Strengthen comprehension by THINKING and TALKING!

- THINK about TV shows and movies as you watch them together!
 - Was the show fiction (literature) or nonfiction (informational) ?
 - What was the writer's/producer's purpose for the show/film?
 - Fiction: Who are the characters?
What is the setting (time and place)?
What was the main problem/conflict in the show's/film's plot line?
Which event happened first? Last?
What was the climax/turning point in the show/film?
What events happened to solve the problem/conflict?
What character traits did viewers learn about the characters?
How did viewers learn the characters' traits?
What was the central idea or theme?
 - Nonfiction: What was the main idea the producer wanted viewers to know?
What are the details that support the main idea?
How did the producer organize the show? Was it Cause/effect?
Problem/solution? Sequence of events?
Chronological events?
- TALK about thinking strategies when playing board games, video games, constructing items, cooking. Always discuss with your child "WHY" you are doing a certain action. (Think aloud!)

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SPAC Conference, July 2012, D. Betz



Increase Comprehension	
<p><u>Informational Text</u></p> <p>Author's Purpose Title (Main Idea) Point of View (Opinion) Text Structure (Varies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequence • Problem/Solution • Cause/Effect • Comparison <p>Headings Graphics (Pictures/Charts) Analyze/Evaluate</p>	<p><u>Literature (Fiction)</u></p> <p>Author's Purpose Title (Main Idea) Point of View Text Structure (Constant)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Characters - Setting (Time/Place) - Conflict (Problem) - Rising Action - Climax (Turning Point) - Resolution <p>Theme Analyze/Evaluate</p>