

## Ways to Build Vocabulary

Some ways to build vocabulary include the following:

- Use questioning techniques to build vocabulary.
  - Use the language of story structure and new vocabulary specific to the text when questioning.
  - Ask more complex questions to get students to extend their thinking and elaborate their language.
- Use books in the classroom that present rich language and vocabulary and engage children's imagination.
  - Provide exposure to new vocabulary and more difficult vocabulary than students can read.
- Provide explicit instruction on key words.
  - Use 10 to 15 minutes of reading instruction to teach 3 to 5 vocabulary words per lesson.
  - Select words to teach that are unknown, critical to text understanding, and useful to the future.
- Use a variety of instructional practices.
  - Use graphic organizers, word mapping, and word walls to facilitate vocabulary instruction.
  - Provide multiple exposures to vocabulary words through explicit instruction, games, and discussions.
- Link the new topic with topics that have been discussed previously, so that students can make connections between new and acquired vocabulary and experiences.

*(2TRA, 2001; Anderson & Nagy, 1992; Gipe & Arnold, 1979; McKeown, Beck, Omanson, & Pople, 1985; National Reading Panel, 2000; Senechal & Cornell, 1993; Stahl, 1983, 1986)*