

# Build vocabulary to strengthen reading skills



One of the best ways for your child to improve her reading and writing skills is to expand her vocabulary. Try these teacher-recommended strategies for boosting vocabulary:

- **Read, read, read!** This is the easiest way to build vocabulary. The more your child reads, the more new words she'll encounter.
- **Examine the context of new words.** See if your child can figure out what a new word means by reading the text around it or looking at related pictures.
- **Keep a list of new words** and their meanings in a special notebook.
- **Use a thesaurus.** Encourage your child to look up *synonyms* (words with the same meaning) and *antonyms* (words with opposite meanings) for words she uses often.



- **Play word games.** Do crossword and other word puzzles together.
- **Learn the roots of words.** See how many words she can think of that contain the same root—*predict*, *verdict*, *dictionary* and *dictate*, for example. What do these words have in common? What does the root *dict* indicate? (It's a Latin root word meaning *say*.)