

Activities to Facilitate Core Vocabulary Development

Reading & Writing

- Word wall
- Message of the day
- Graph (e.g., “Do you like pizza?” yes/no)
- Writing words that children recall from previous activities or discussions
 - make use of wipe boards, paper, letter stamps, chalkboards (writing center materials)
- Reading books
 - find target vocabulary words in books you read in class
 - use new vocabulary through story re-tellings

Listening – Expression

- Lotto boards
- Story box
- Dice games (words/pictures on dice)
- Concept books
- Toys/Games:
 - theme related magnet boards
 - cariboo game
 - potato head
 - classification magnet games
 - sorting games (sort specific items/objects into their respective categories)
 - simon says
 - hide ‘n seek
 - question board (e.g., what shape is it, what does it do?)
 - camouflage game (e.g., show friends part of a picture see if they can guess what it is, give clues to what it is based on function, features, class)
 - counting jar (e.g., introduce important vocabulary words everyday)
 - adaptive books
 - bingo boards

Facilitating Core Vocabulary Learning in the Classroom

Circle Time:

- Routines:
 - calendar patterns: use to teach concepts such as size, spatial, category name, etc.
 - weather: use sentence strips: “It is __.” “It is not __.”, gives opportunity to teach negation and yes/no question form vocabulary
 - flag: teaches right/left, colors, country
 - jobs: gives opportunities to teach gender and pronoun vocabulary

Center Time:

- Art Center:
 - Opportunities to teach vocabulary related to: color, size, shape, function, texture, right/left

- Sensory Table:
 - Opportunities to teach vocabulary related to: descriptive concepts (color, size, shape, texture, same/different), verbs, quantity, gender (possession, pronouns)

- Table Toys:
 - Opportunities to teach vocabulary related to units of study through use of lotto boards, bingo boards, dice games, magnet boards, puzzles

- Book Center:
 - Opportunities to teach vocabulary related to units of study through use of story box, social stories, stories the kids write

- Block Center:
 - Opportunities to teach vocabulary related to spatial concepts, descriptive concepts, categories items belong to, gender (possession, pronouns), verbs, function of items

- Pretend Center:
 - Opportunities to teach vocabulary related to categories items belong to, verbs, spatial concepts, descriptive concepts, wh-question forms,

- Writing Center:
 - Opportunities to teach vocabulary related to spatial concepts, categories, descriptive concepts, verbs

Story Time

- Opportunities for exposure to print and word acquisition, concepts of left to right progression, sequential concepts of first/then, and response to and comprehension of wh-questions

Music Time

- Opportunities for exposure to a variety of vocabulary including actions, body parts, descriptive concepts (fast/slow, loud/soft, colors, etc.)

Motor Time

- Opportunities to teach verbs, spatial concepts, descriptive concepts, opposites

Snack Time

- Opportunities to teach vocabulary related to descriptive concepts (including same/different), categories, verbs, gender (possession and pronouns), wh-question forms

Clean-Up Time

- Opportunities to teach comparison concepts (same/different), categorical names, wh-question forms, generate associations (e.g., what goes together)

Target Word Lists

LOCATION

above	far	on
across	here	out
around	in	over
behind	in back of	right
below	in front	somewhere
beside	into	there
between	left	through
bottom	near	top
by	next	under
down	off	up

GENDER/PERSONAL

boy	hers	people
brother	herself	person
child	him	she
children	himself	sister
family	his	their
father	I	theirs
friend	lady	them
girl	man	they
grandfather	men	we
grandmother	mother	woman
he	our	women
her	ours	us

SIZE

big
large
little
long
medium
short
small
tall

QUANTITY

a lot	half	none
add	how many	nothing
all	less	numbers (1-10)
another	many	one
couple	match	pair
everyone	more	some
everything	much	whole
except	no one	zero

DESCRIPTORS

bad	even	long
big	fast	new
broke	full	nice
broken	good	old
clean	great	same
cold	hard	shapes
colors	heavy	short
dark	hot	small
different	kind	slow
dirty	large	soft
dry	light	warm
empty	little	wet

TIME

after	late	soon
again	later	summer
all done	never	then
before	next	today
early	often	tomorrow
fall	once	yesterday
first	spring	winter
last	sometime	

FUNCTION WORDS

a	do	so
am	does	that
an	done	the
and	don't	this
are	had	those
around	has	to
as	have	too
at	if	very
away	is	was
be	it	were
because	no	will
can	not	with
but	or	wrong
did	right	yes

CATEGORIES

animals	furniture	people
body parts	letters	plants
bugs	music - instruments	shapes
clothes	numbers	toys
colors	places -	weather
food	(farm, park, house, etc.)	

VERBS

ask	kick	set
build	kiss	show
buy	know	shut
call	laugh	sing
carry	lay	sit
catch	learn	skip
clean	like	sleep
climb	live	slide
close	look	stand
cook	love	start
cry	make	step
cut	move	stop
dance	open	swim
draw	paint	swing
drink	pass	take
eat	pay	talk
fall	pet	think
find	play	throw
finish	pull	tie
fix	push	turn
follow	put	wait
get	read	wake
give	ride	walk
go	run	want
grow	say	wear
hear	see	work
jump	send	

EMOTIONS

angry
excited
frustrated
funny
happy

hungry
hurt
mad
sad
scared

sick
sleepy
thirsty
tired
upset