

# Conversations that build vocabulary

Your youngster's vocabulary grows the fastest during his first six years—and a bigger vocabulary will help him do better in school. Expand his "word bank" by weaving new words into everyday conversations.

**In the car...** Use "fancy" words for familiar things. You could say, "The florist has a lot of daisies today" or "When the pedestrians get to the other side of the street, it will be our turn to go."



**At the grocery store...** Name or discuss fruits and vegetables. You might point out *artichokes* and *nectarines* or explain that apples can be used to make *cobbler* or *cider*.

**In the doctor's office...** Use words that describe your child's experiences. During a checkup, for instance, introduce words like *stethoscope*, *vaccination*, and *reflexes*.

**While doing chores...** Be specific as you work together. Examples: "Please help me measure the *detergent*" or "Hold the candle while I dust the *sconce*." ♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER

### What's in a box?

Did you know that the cardboard box was inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame? Boost your youngster's creativity and imagination with these "ideas in a box":

- Set out boxes of various shapes and sizes. Add a roll of duct tape. Your child can stack and tape boxes together to make all kinds of structures. Perhaps she'll build a cottage with a chimney, a castle with turrets, or a submarine with a periscope. *Idea:* Offer to cut flaps or windows if she needs help.



- Provide arts and crafts supplies like crayons, markers, glue, construction paper, tissue paper, and aluminum foil. Your youngster could color or cover a box to turn it into a striped circus tent, a shiny space station, or a brick apartment building. *Tip:* If a box is big enough, let her climb in and decorate the inside! ♥



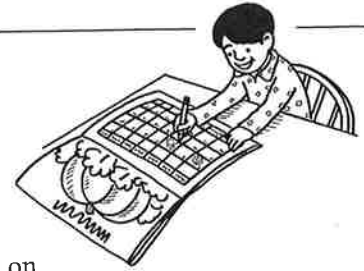
### All ready with routines

Daily routines let your child know what to expect. Plus, they help him develop skills like time management, organization, and planning. Try these strategies.

**Count down.** Use a timer to keep your youngster on track when he's getting dressed or picking up toys. He may enjoy trying to beat a timer set for 5 minutes—and then trying to beat 4½ minutes tomorrow.

**Clean up.** Help your child come up with an organized way to store his toys. He might sort them by putting blocks into a basket, action figures into a shoebox, and books on a shelf.

**Plan ahead.** Let your youngster keep his own calendar and draw symbols on it to signify special days. For instance, on days he has music class, he could draw a drum. Together, check his calendar each night, and talk about his plans for the next day. ("You get to be the line leader tomorrow.") ♥



## PARENT TO PARENT

### It's fun to be a good sport

My daughter Rosie had meltdowns when she lost games. When my other daughter Katie begged to play board games without her sister, I decided to ask the PE teacher for advice.

Mr. Jackson said that kids need to learn to lose—and win—gracefully, but what matters most at Rosie's age is having fun. So he focuses on players' efforts and their successes. For instance, if the class plays Duck, Duck, Goose, he cheers on students for trying hard as well as for catching other players.

Before our next board game, I encouraged Katie to congratulate Rosie on good moves. So she gave her sister a high-five when she captured one of my tokens. When Katie won and Rosie started whining, she said, "I know you're mad you lost, but wasn't it fun to capture Dad's tokens?"

It took a few games, but Rosie has started congratulating Katie on good moves, too. She's still not happy when she loses, but I think she's realizing that games are fun no matter who wins. ♥



## OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote school readiness, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,  
a division of CCH Incorporated  
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com  
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## Montessori Globes

### The Land & Water Globe and the Continent Globe

These two special globes (left) are used to introduce physical geography. The first is used to teach the idea of how land areas and water are represented on a globe. Land is shown as rough brown area; water is smooth blue surface areas. The second introduces the seven continents. Each is shown in a distinct color.

Children learn the names and

location of each continent. The color code used on the Continent Globe is carried on with the Puzzle Map of the World and in early work in continent studies.