What’s That Word?

Learning new words and concepts ensure children develop strong vocabularies. Research notes that children who are familiar with many words find it easier to read. Reading aloud a variety of books is key to helping children learn new vocabulary. Jim Trelease, renowned advocate for reading aloud to children and the author of The Read Aloud Handbook, says that children’s books have about 31 uncommon words per thousand words. That’s three times more than in conversation and 25% more than what is on television programs. When coming upon unfamiliar words, describe the meaning instead of replacing it with a similar word.

That introduces new words and synonyms for words. Another way to increase children’s vocabulary is to talk with them and narrate their day. As you describe their day, you will introduce new vocabulary in a meaningful context.

These are just a few ideas to increase children’s vocabulary. Summertime is a great time to learn new vocabulary about places to vacation. The library has a variety of books about the beach, camping, mountains, lakes and tourist destinations. Read about places children are visiting this summer and encourage their use of new vocabulary words.

Written by Jane Girondo

Library Books for Building Vocabulary

Find these and many other books about places your family can visit and other vacation places at your neighborhood library.

At the Beach by Shira Evans
Young readers will learn all about the beach and the animals that call it home in this fun pre-reader.

Beach Day by Karen Roosa
Rhyming text describes a perfect day at the beach, complete with sandy knees, deviled eggs and a castle with a moat.

Beachcombing by Jim Arnosky
Illustrations and text describe some of the many things that can be found on a walk along a beach, including coconuts, shark teeth, jellyfish, crabs and different shells.

Beach House by Deanna Caswell
In simple rhyming text tells a story of a family’s day at their beach house by the sea.
“Vocabulary Building Books” continued from page 1

**Camp Rex** by Molly Idle
Cordelia and her troop of dino-scouts enjoy a camping trip in the great outdoors.

**Dudel** by Aaron Reynolds
A platypus and a beaver who love surfing encounter a shark—with unexpected results.

**Fetch** by Jorey Hurley
Illustrations and simple text follow a dog as it chases a ball at the beach.

**Froggy Goes to Hawaii** by Jonathan London
When Froggy goes on vacation to Hawaii, he is too excited to pay much attention to his parents.

**How to Code a Sandcastle** by Josh Funk
Pearl and her trusty rust-proof robot, Pascal, need to build a sandcastle before summer vacation is over, and they’re going to do it using code.

**Into the Outdoors** by Susan Gal
A child describes the wonders observed during a family camping trip to the mountains in a story that introduces the reader to prepositions.

**A Lion in Paris** by Beatrice Alemagna
A curious young lion decides to leave the grasslands and visit the city of Paris.

**Maisy Goes to London** by Lucy Cousins
When Maisy and her friends visit London, they go on a whirlwind tour of the city.

**Olvina Flies** by Grace Lin
When Olvina, a chicken, receives an invitation to the annual Bird Convention in Hawaii, Will the pig and a fellow passenger, help her to overcome her fear of flying.

**On Gull Beach** by Jane Yolen
At the Cape Cod shoreline, gulls perform acrobatics in pursuit of a sea star.

**Penguin on Vacation** by Salina Yoon
Penguin’s tired of the snow and cold so he decides to go on vacation somewhere warm and along the way he makes a new friend.

**Rick and Rack and the Great Outdoors** by Ethan Long
The story of two friends who embark on three hilarious (mis)adventures in the great outdoors.

**Sally Goes to the Mountains** by Stephen Huneck
Sally, a black Labrador retriever, is on her way to go camping in the mountains.

**A Vacation for Pooch** by Maryann Cocca-Leffler
Violet is unhappy that her dog cannot join her on vacation at the beach, but Pooch is having fun on Grandpa’s farm, despite the fact that Violet accidentally took the bag with Pooch’s favorite toys and treats.

**Toshi’s Little Treasures** by Nadine Robert
On a series of walks with his grandmother, Toshi collects small treasures to add to his collection, from a dragonfly wing to a glittery rock to a guitar pick.

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### Library Shout Out: Summer Reading Adventure

Studies have found that reading for pleasure is beneficial for kids in many ways including keeping up their reading skills over the summer and helping them succeed in school.

Fairfax County Public Library helps make reading fun with the Summer Reading Adventure. The Summer Reading Adventure runs June 15 through September 1 and invites all children and teens—birth through high school—to read for fun over the summer. The theme in 2018 is “Reading Takes You Everywhere.”

Babies through rising third graders read 15 books (kids can have books read to them), rising fourth and fifth graders read 10 books and teens in rising grades 6–12 read five books.

Finish reading the required number of books by September 1 and go to a library branch to pick up your coupon book which has a variety of free prizes and discounts.

For more information, and to sign up, go to https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/summer-reading.