

# Easy activities expand your child's vocabulary



A strong vocabulary helps build a solid foundation for reading. Boosting your child's word smarts can be fun for the whole family. Here are some activities to try:

- **Play a variety of games.** Try Scrabble, Boggle, Outburst, Balderdash or any game that requires players to come up with words.
- **Do crossword puzzles** and word searches together.
- **Select a word of the day** and have your child look up its definition. Encourage family members to use the word throughout the day.
- **Help your child create a personal dictionary.** When your child comes across a new word—a spelling word, a vocabulary word or a word in a book—have your child add the word and its definition to the dictionary.



- **Read a poem aloud.** Ask your child to guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- **Go on a word scavenger hunt.** Select a news article and ask your child to look for five interesting words and underline them. Ask, *What do you think the words mean, based on how they are used in the article?*
- **Give family members a word,** such as *big*. Ask each person to name a synonym (*colossal*) and an antonym (*minuscule*).