

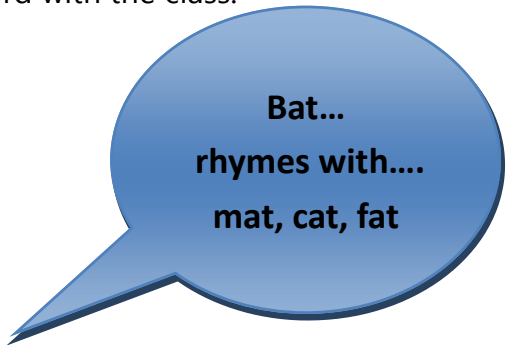
Developing vocabulary in the classroom

Visual aids

- ⇒ Use visual aids to support the learning of new vocabulary (e.g. pictures, objects, symbols, videos).
- ⇒ Making and displaying pictures of the topics will help the children start generating their own ideas. You could use Mind Maps, Spidergrams, Word Maps, Attribute Webs to help children develop their vocabulary and to see how different words might link together.

Talk about vocabulary

- ⇒ When introducing new topic vocabulary, discuss the word with the class.
- ⇒ Link the word to words the children already know e.g. "immediately" means the same as "right now".
- ⇒ Take the word apart:
 - Does it rhyme with a more familiar word?
 - Does it have smaller words inside it?
- ⇒ Highlight the opposites and synonyms, explaining any unusual meanings e.g. multiple meanings.
- ⇒ Make an association that will help the children remember the word – often the more bizarre/silly the association, the more likely the children are to remember it!



Word Meanings

Teach word meanings using things like science speak, games to link words and their meanings, developing word books (for older children).

Word Wall

For use with a topic category at a whole class level. Words and pictures are put up on a wall relating to a specific topic. Throughout the focus of the topic the children can refer to or add to the word wall.

Word of the day

Each day have a curriculum word (and its meaning) up on the board/wall and throughout the day remind each child about the day's word



Roll the Dice

Make a card dice and add curriculum vocabulary onto each side. Each child takes a turn to roll the dice, say the word and give its meaning.

Pass the bag

Pictures/words of current vocabulary are placed in a bag which is passed around the group/class. The teacher selects a child to take out a picture/word, say the word and the whole group put their hands up to tell the meaning.

Sentence maker

Practise using new words, saying them in sentences which illustrate the word meaning.

Pre-teach curriculum vocabulary

- Identify "priority" words for your chosen topic. Be realistic about the amount of vocabulary a child can learn.
- Teach these (you can use the discussed strategies e.g. mind maps) before you use them in the classroom.
- This will develop the child's awareness of the vocabulary which will support their ability to access the class activity.
- Revise the vocabulary at the end of the lesson, at the start of the next lesson and the following week.

Self Help Strategies

Children need to be aware of when they do not know a word or what a word means. Teach them strategies to use for finding out what a word means. You could use cue cards on a key ring/ wall/ child's desk, a note book to write new vocabulary in or, or a poster on the wall/ word walls and discuss:

- ⇒ **What is it used for / function?**
- ⇒ **What group/category is it in?**
- ⇒ **The first sound in the word**
- ⇒ **Where is it found?**
- ⇒ **What does it look like?**