

Word games to play at home

Simple games to start with...



Treasure Hunt

This is a great one for the journey to and from school. When outside go looking for things such as:

- Objects that could be described by a particular word such as “gorgeous” or “shriveled”
- Categories such as mini beasts or things that need electricity or things that are circular

Draw, write or take photographs of these objects but above all talk about them

Word of the Day

Select a word of the day and write it somewhere everyone can see. Everyone then tries to use the word in a sentence as often as possible. The sentences must make sense and fit what you are talking about. See who can use the word the most times and maybe

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Slightly more challenging games...



What can it do?

This is another game for journeys: one player calls out an object that he/she can see and the next person has to think of five things that it can do or can be done with it eg. “tree”- climb, chop, grow, fall down and absorb carbon dioxide.

Letter and category game

Choose a category; it might be something like clothes, food or TV programmes. Then choose a letter. See how many words you can think of from that category that start with the target letter. For example, clothes starting with “s”: scarf, socks, sweatshirt.

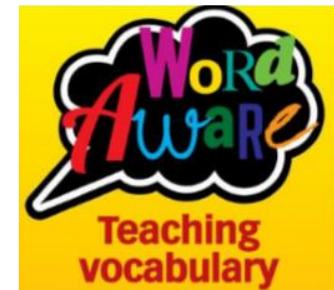
Describe it

Write down on pieces of paper a range of words. They might be related to what your child is learning at school. Place all the words in a “hat”. Each person takes a turn at taking out words from the hat. The challenge is to describe the word without using it.

Riverside Primary School



A Guide to Word Aware



Why is it important to focus on vocabulary?

- Vocabulary is linked closely with reading and writing
- The more times children hear words, the more they can learn
- School and families working together gives children the best chance to learn words

Websites for word games

www.eastoftheweb.com/games
www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/quizzes
www.squiglyspayhouse.com
www.wordcentral.com/games
www.wuzzlesandpuzzles.com

Vocabulary pinball:

www.playkidsgames.com/games/pinball/vocabulary/pinballvocab1

Why should we use Word Aware in Riverside Primary School?

Research from Speech and Language Therapists and educational psychologists indicates that:

- Vocabulary has to be specifically taught
- Vocabulary levels are strong predictors of later literacy skills
- Vocabulary level at age 5 has been found to be the single best predictor of future life achievements
- Without a good vocabulary, children struggle to understand what they are taught, to express how they feel, to manage social situations and resolve conflicts
- Starting with a poor vocabulary has a cumulative effect

Key principles of effective vocabulary teaching

1. Make words a priority
2. Maintain a sustained effort
3. Link oral and written vocabulary
4. Analyse word components
5. Use a range of methods
6. Go with the child (at the right rate)
7. Use multiple exposures
8. Teach words in context
9. Teach strategies