

# SELF-EXPRESSION

*through development of language*

If we really think about it, the art of verbal self-expression has a lot to do with language and vocabulary. Having the words within your repertoire to be able to verbally state your feelings, beliefs or thoughts. But how do we start this? Where do we even begin? What if your child is an infant, what then? How can we encourage the continued growth of our child's vocabulary?



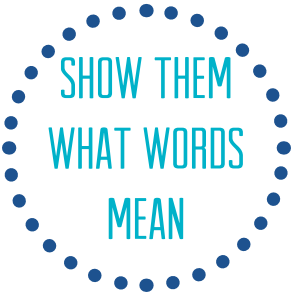
READ WITH  
YOUR CHILD

Vocabulary development starts indirectly, so your child is beginning to understand the meanings of words simply by hearing them and by hearing them in context.



FOLLOW YOUR  
CHILD'S LEAD

Does your child like playing with cars? Looks like a great time to use words such as push, fast, and slow. Kitchen play? A great time to use words such as mix, stir, open, close.



SHOW THEM  
WHAT WORDS  
MEAN

We've discussed it before... not all kids learn the same way. There are plenty of ways to show what a word means that may help them understand other than simply saying it.



EXPLAIN IN  
SIMPLE WAYS

A child's definition of a word is simple, to the point. They know what it means to go fast. When they hear someone say quick, redirect that back to going fast. Simple explanation, simple use, connection made.



TALK TO  
YOUR KIDS

When they're infants you can narrate what you're doing so they can begin to learn some new words. As they get older and can speak, have conversations with them. You may be surprised at what they say.