

Summer! If you are planning on doing some fun things with your family, you will have many opportunities to help your children learn new words—a wonderful way to help them get ready for school.

If you go on any family outings, you can help expand your young child's vocabulary by adding to what she says. If she picks up a rock by the river and says, "Rock!", you can add to that by saying something like, "A big, black rock! Do you want to throw it in the water?" This starts a conversation, with both of you listening and talking back and forth. This helps teach your child new words and their meanings.

Children also learn new words by hearing adults talk. Since summer is the season for family get-togethers, be sure to include your child in family conversations. This can easily be done at mealtimes when everyone sits down together.

The more words a child knows when he goes to school, the more likely he is to succeed when learning to read.