south dakota DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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READING tips

Welcome to the fifth addition of the Reading and Behavior Tips Newsletter created for families and caregivers of elementary students.

Each month you will find activities, tools, and strategies gathered from educators and leaders in their fields that you can do at home with your child. Enjoy and have fun!

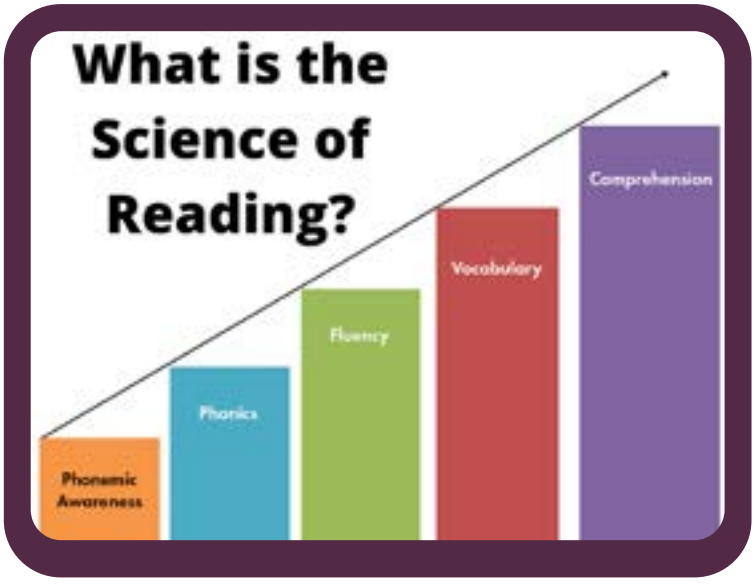
Reading:

The fourth of the five essential components that make up the Science of Reading is vocabulary. Vocabulary is understanding and using a broad range of words. Ready for a vocabulary lesson of your own? There are four types of vocabulary: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

- Listening vocabulary are the words children need to know to understand what is being said. Talk to them and explain what they are seeing, hearing, doing.
- Speaking vocabulary are the words they use when the talk to others. When they are talking, expand what they share by asking who, what, when, where, why questions.
- Reading vocabulary are the words they need to understand what they read. Find new words in books that your child doesn't understand and describe them.
- Writing vocabulary are the words they use when they write. Write stories together.

Help your child understand and use a broad range of words in all the areas. Here are some activities to help grow your child's vocabulary

- One of the best ways is the old refrain read to your child! Reread familiar books, read new books, books that are nonfiction, poetry, ... Make it a priority to read aloud to your child every day.
- When you reread books, talk about words that may be new to your child. Build a word game into the discussion. "That character wanted a bedroom that was tidy. Do you know other words that mean the same thing as tidy?" "Neat, orderly, picked up, uncluttered are words that mean the same as tidy." You can keep a notebook of words you talk about and words that mean the same thing. Challenge each other to use the new words throughout the day. Give a high five or a tally mark every time you do.
- Encourage your child to keep a journal. Help expand vocabulary by encouraging and modeling more descriptive words when you read it together. "We did bake cookies yesterday. That was fun! I am glad you included it in your journal. What were the cookies like? Were they delicious? Sweet? Crumbly? Chewy?"
- Create a picture journal together of new words. When you find a new word, let your child illustrate it and put down additional words that mean the same thing.
- Play "I Spy" together. You can describe an object you can see, and your child can guess what it is you are looking at. Then your child gets to describe one to you. Ask questions "What does it do? When do I use it? How do I use it?"
- Learn silly rhymes, tongue twisters, and jokes together.



Behavior:

We've discussed in earlier editions the value of teaching, acknowledging, modeling, and prompting your child regarding the expectations and rules in your home. We also talked about providing quick behavior corrections.

Let's tackle chores this month. Chores provide:

- **Family connection:** Children feel they are a part of the team and creates a sense of belonging.
- **Self-esteem:** Completing chores can create a sense of accomplishment and pride when they are praised for jobs well done.
- **Emotional growth:** Chores teach children the value of contributing to their family and sharing the workload.
- **Skill development:** Chores help children develop a sense of responsibility and independence.

Ensure the chores are age-appropriate and teach exactly what you expectation.

A few examples for all ages:

- Pick up toys
- Put dirty clothes in a hamper
- Put away shoes, boots, coats
- Clear their dirty dishes off the table

A few more examples as children get a little older:

- Make bed
- Vacuum or sweep
- Feed pets
- Put dishes in the dishwasher
- Empty dishwasher





There are fun ways to incorporate chore time.

- Number the tasks and roll a die. "Look, you rolled a 4. That means you will empty the dishwasher tonight."
- Set a timer for a random amount of time. "Tonight, we will all work on chores for 5 minutes."

We appreciate your feedback

Please fill out this quick survey to help us meet your needs.