

Vocabulary stimulation

Children with learning difficulties, language delays or disorders benefit from vocabulary stimulation on a daily basis.

Life can provide us with many opportunities to model new words to our little ones and our teens: when going for a walk, watching a movie, reading, cooking, painting, the possibilities are endless.

1. Modelling of new words: Consciously use more sophisticated words rather than the simple or common words.

Instead of: old → ancient

good/nice → extraordinary, phenomenal, impressive, pleasant

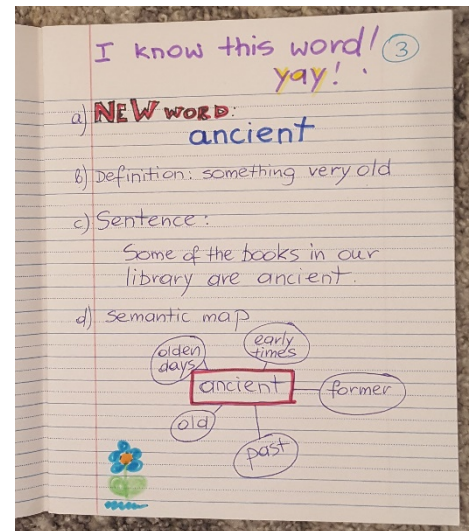
happy → content, joyous

sad → unhappy

scared → frightened

2. Start a copybook to write down the new word in a “Personal Dictionary” by following the steps:

- a. Write the new word: **ancient**
- b. Explain the meaning and the child writes her/his definition: *something very old*
- c. The child writes the new word in a sentence: *I saw a man driving an ancient car!*
- d. Write related words (lingo: semantic map) *former, old, past, early times, olden days*



3. If you like bigger visuals, instead of writing the words in a dictionary, make a Word-wall using Post-its or cards and attach them to your wall.

- Go over the new words often in order to remember them.
- Use the new words in your interactions with your child to promote generalization.

