



# THE UNICORN SCHOOL

20 Marcham Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1AA

Tel: 01235 530222 Fax: 01235 536889

e-mail: [info@unicornoxford.co.uk](mailto:info@unicornoxford.co.uk)

[www.unicornoxford.co.uk](http://www.unicornoxford.co.uk)



## Tips for Enhancing Your Child's Vocabulary

“Vocabulary is a huge predictor of how far children from any background will succeed at school and beyond. The words they know will help them to read, understand, gain new perspectives, and change or confirm their world view. The words they use will give them precision, clarity, nuance, as well as being used to judge them in exams, in life.” “Perhaps not surprisingly, language acquisition and reading are closely linked. The better a child’s language knowledge and the richer their vocabulary, the more likely they are to understand the texts they read. Likewise, the more widely and often they read, the greater the number of words and different language structures and patterns they will encounter. Reading fuels language development, which in turn supports reading, forming a virtuous circle.”

“It is obvious that the reader needs to know the meanings of (most of) the words in a text to understand the text as a whole. So, we can think about individual word meanings as the “building blocks” of sentence and passage comprehension; they are necessary to extract the meaning of the text as a whole. Good vocabulary knowledge is also related to growth in reading comprehension over time: children with better vocabulary have better reading comprehension, and their comprehension improves more over time.”

These quotes from the ‘Oxford Language Report’ show how important a rich vocabulary is for children to succeed across the curriculum and to enable them to express themselves effectively.

Do read the Oxford Language Report to see how schools are beginning to respond to the ‘word gap’ – the worrying paucity of vocabulary in increasing numbers of children’s oral language. The Unicorn School teachers were involved in writing the report.



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For further information the following websites may be useful:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationadvice/11330218/How-to-build-vocabulary.html>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/teaching-vocabulary>

<https://lifehacker.com/eight-ways-to-help-improve-your-childs-vocabulary-1645796717>

[https://global.oup.com/education/content/dictionaries/key-issues/word-gap/?region=uk&utm\\_medium=blog&utm\\_source=buddy-site&utm\\_team=digital&utm\\_campaign=WordGap2018&utm\\_brand=literacy&utm\\_content=report](https://global.oup.com/education/content/dictionaries/key-issues/word-gap/?region=uk&utm_medium=blog&utm_source=buddy-site&utm_team=digital&utm_campaign=WordGap2018&utm_brand=literacy&utm_content=report)

<http://readoxford.org/>

Regards

Janine Wooldridge

1:1 Teacher

The Unicorn School for the Dyslexic Child  
Registered Charity No. 1070807  
Company Registration No. 03588494  
Head Teacher: Andrew Day BEd (Hons)





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