

How parents can support the Word Aware approach:

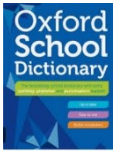


Find it - before or even after reading a book with your child identify words they might not understand, write them down and ask them to find it in the story, can they then use the clues and their reading skills to work out what it means. They could use a dictionary to find the meaning or look in a thesaurus to find words with similar meanings.

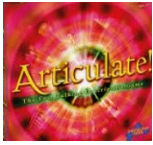


Word rounds - Choose one of the categories below. Go around in a circle, with each player adding a category item.

Animals	Clothes	Furniture	Food	Transport
Sports	Countries	Shops	Parts of the body	Computer games
Films	T.V. programmes	Famous people	Anything to do with Christmas	Books
Something you cut	Something you can smell	Something you wear when it is hot	Something you can see on a beach	Songs
Somewhere you go on holiday	Something you would see at the zoo	Things you use or wear when playing sport	Things you could do with a piece of paper	Something red/ green/ blue
Something starting with 'p' (or any other letter)	Something with legs	Something you would find in a handbag	Things in a classroom	Things you could buy in a supermarket that isn't food
Shoes	Things that are cold	Insects	Things that grow	Musical instruments
Boy's/ girl's name	Cartoon characters	Famous sports men/ women	Verbs (doing words)	Adjectives (describing words)
Things that are thin	Things that are round/ square	Breakable objects	Things that can fly	Things with wheels
Toys	Things you plug in	Emotions	Pets	Jobs
Things that make you laugh	Things that are fast	Breakfast foods	Things that are exciting/ exhilarating	Things that open
Things that are boring	Liquids /things you can pour	Things that rhyme with tea/ cat/ light.	Drinks	Things that are light (not heavy)



Dictionary Definition – ask your child to choose a number based on how many pages you have in your dictionary. Then choose a number between 1-20, again depending on the average number of words on the page. Then when you have told them the initial letter read them the definition, can they guess the word you are describing?



Articulate – describe a word without using key words, you can buy this or make your own version with your child's topic words.



Splat it – give a definition from a selection of target words and your child can say which one you are describing by either hitting it with a fly swat or by throwing beanbags or a pair of bunched up socks.



Treasure Hunt – on the way to and from school, look for things you could describe by a particular word like shrivelled or spiky. Categories such as living things, things with circles, things with engines.



Touch, taste and smell – take every opportunity to describe sensory experiences. Ask them to describe it to you, try to encourage them to use more detailed words than nice or bad, such as rough or sweet.

Word Of The Week

Word of the week – Each week we will share a word of the week. As a family see how many times you can use your target word in a meaningful way during the week. The only rules are the sentence must make sense and fit into your conversation.

Remember to try and use these new words in your conversations to embed them into your child's vocabulary All of these strategies and games can be completed in home language or in English.

Try some of these ideas and become magnificent word explorers together!