

## Give Your Child the Words

A good oral vocabulary is one of the best predictors of reading success. The best way to help your child build a rich vocabulary is to introduce new words in a comfortable, natural setting. To start, incorporate these practices into your everyday activities:

- Read aloud. Reading books to your child that she can't read on her own exposes her to new, more advanced words. As you read, have her explain what's happening in her own words; this gives her a chance to use the vocabulary she's picking up through the story.
- Encourage literacy in meaningful ways. Your child can help write grocery lists, instructions for the baby-sitter, or thank you notes.
- Purposefully use new words in familiar contexts. Instead of "mixing" eggs, have her "whisk" them; rather than ask her to "get" something, have her "fetch" or "retrieve" it.
- Visit new places. Share new experiences and give her words for what she is seeing. A tiger at the zoo is ferocious; a shell on the beach is delicate.
- Emphasize word families. By reading poetry and playing rhyming games, your child learns to associate words that sound alike and have the same spelling (pail, fail, mail, etc.). As she learns to read one word in the word family, she'll be better able to decode related ones.



Get *Your Seesaw Reader*  
Now Every Month  
at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read)

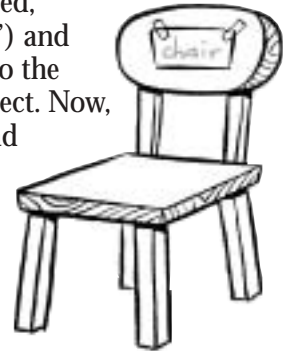


Be part of our community of readers — kids, teachers, and parents — who

will read for 2004 seconds starting at 12 noon on December 5.

## Daily Reading Fun

Make big, easy-to-read labels for the things in your child's room ("chair," "bed," "bookcase") and tape each to the correct object. Now, she can read from the start of her day right to bedtime.



## Beyond Books

Make up clapping games using rhymes that repeat a specific word family, like this version of Mary Mack:

Miss Mary Mack/All dressed in black/Had silver buttons/Straight down her back./She took her lunch/From a paper sack/But saw a bug/And gave it a whack!

## Ask an Expert

Should I use worksheets to help my child build skills?

Worksheets can reinforce skills that your child has already learned — but using them too often can actually hinder the learning process. Worksheets rarely ask your child to think creatively or to use higher-order thinking skills (deduction, induction, analysis). He learns these through more interactive, hands-on activities. Instead of worksheets, get your child involved in learning. For instance, put aside the worksheet for the letter "b," and walk around the neighborhood together searching for things that start with "b."

**Meet Our Expert:** *Ellen Booth Church taught PreK and kindergarten for years. She is now an educational consultant developing curriculum and writing articles for parents and teachers.*

Have a question about reading? Find advice at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

## Did You Know?

November 17-23 is  
Children's Book Week!

Celebrate by treating your child to a brand-new read.

# What Are Word Families?

Word families, also known as phonograms, are groups of words that share the same spelling pattern. Encountering these often will help your child recognize the spelling pattern, which will in turn help her decode “member” words.

Keep this list of 37 key phonograms handy. They’re found in more than 500 primary school words.

ack	ash	ick	ock
ail	at	ide	oke
ain	ate	ight	op
ake	aw	ill	ore
ale	ay	in	ot
ame	eat	ine	uck
an	ell	ing	ug
ank	est	ip	ump
ap	ise	it	unk

## Editors’ Pick of the Month

Available in your *Seesaw November Book Club* flyer.

*The Very First Thanksgiving Day*  
by Rhonda Gowler Green



**Who it is for:** Parents who want to introduce their child to the holiday’s meaning

**Why we chose it:** It uses captivating illustrations and lyrical language to show the relationship between two cultures.

**Parents say:** “The paintings are simply breathtaking and the book’s message of peace and tolerance is particularly timely.”

**Kids weigh in:** “I like how I see something different every time I look at the pictures!”

## More Picture-Perfect Books that Introduce Holiday Traditions:

*Hannukah: A Counting Book*  
by Emily Sper

*A Child Was Born*  
by Grace Maccarone

*The Night Before Christmas*  
by Jan Brett

*Seven Candles for Kwanzaa*  
by Andrea Davis Pinkney

### About Your Seesaw Reader Now

Your Seesaw Reader Now is produced by the Family Channel editorial staff at Scholastic.com. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit All About Reading. Go to: [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

## Build Word Ladders

A “word ladder” is an activity where one letter in a word is changed to form a new word. Add one or two letters to each word family to start. Then change those letters to create a new word and see how far you can climb.

Example:

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