In honor of National Learn a Word Day on October 16, try this vocabulary-expanding activity to help your students discover the power of words.

Here’s what to do:

• Gather supplies:
  — Index cards
  — Yarn
  — Clothespins
  — Books and magazines
  — Colored pencils or markers

• Have your students browse through books and magazines for unfamiliar words that stand out to them.

• Let them look up the definitions of the unfamiliar words and then choose a favorite one.

• Each student should write their chosen word on the front of an index card and its definition on the back.

• Pin up the cards using yarn and clothespins and hang them along the wall of the classroom to create a chain of newly learned words.

• Throughout the week, have students take turns using their new word in a sentence.