



# Goosehill Primary School

Weekly Notes- March 27, 2015



Dear Parents,

One of the hallmarks of an educated person is an expansive and rich vocabulary. Knowledge of a wide variety of words helps a person comprehend complex books and articles and enhances his/her ability to say and write precisely what s/he wants to communicate. A rich vocabulary helps a person make sense of content s/he reads and hears in the media. Vocabulary knowledge also enables a person to see the humor in word play and enjoy the beauty of language.

At Goosehill Primary School, we recognize the impact of students' vocabulary levels on their success in school. We know that a strong vocabulary enables young readers to use the meaning of words to support their efforts to decode them. When students use precise vocabulary when writing and speaking, they are more able to communicate clearly and succinctly. We also see how having a strong vocabulary helps children as they listen for information and instructions throughout the day.

## There are many ways parents can support their children's vocabulary growth:

**READ ALOUD** Studies show that children learn many words from books read aloud to them. Read-aloud of stories is important, but it is also important to read-aloud nonfiction/information books. Research shows that parents tend to highlight vocabulary more when reading information books to their children than when reading stories to them.

**GET THEM READING** Children learn many new words through reading independently. Researchers estimate that 5-15% of all the words we learn, we learn from reading. Children who read more tend to have richer vocabularies.

**ENGAGE CHILDREN IN RICH ORAL LANGUAGE** Children also learn words through conversation. One study showed that young children whose parents use rich vocabulary at the dinner table had better vocabularies and were stronger readers than those who didn't. Try using "*unique*" instead of "*cool*," "*peculiar*" instead of "*strange*," or "*nuisance*" instead of "*pain*." You'll begin to notice that your children pick up and use the words *you* use!



**RAISE WORD CONSCIOUSNESS** Help your children notice when they encounter new words and celebrate when they use them!

Although it may not seem so at times, your child is listening to you all of the time! You can capitalize on that fact by using vocabulary you want your child to learn and use. Remember, you are your child's *first* and *best* teacher.

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein

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