Year 1 Writing Tips for Parents
Building Vocabulary

Syllabus Links

EN1-1A: A student communicates with a range of people in informal and guided activities demonstrating interaction skills and considers how own communication is adjusted in different situations.

Content:

- Develop and apply contextual knowledge
- Understand and apply knowledge of language forms and features
- Respond to compose texts

Advice for Parents

An effective way of helping students build vocabulary is by increasing the amount that they read. Students are likely to develop vocabulary more rapidly when the books they read are not only easy enough to read fluently but also contain unfamiliar words. Reading everyday will build children's vocabulary as they are being exposed to different texts, authors and genres.

Activities at Home

Here are some activities that you may want to try at home to help your child improve their vocabulary.

Read

A good reader makes a good writer. Reading a variety of books builds their vocabulary. Together you can:

- read the words
- read the pictures
- retell the story in your own words

Read books of your child's interest, comics, fiction books, non-fiction books, environmental print and listen to online stories to enhance your child's vocabulary.

Five Senses

Use your Five Senses to describe what you hear, see, smell, taste and feel.

E.g. Go to the park
Touch the water with your feet at the pond. *Hear* the birds chattering in the trees. *Smell* the BBQ cooking in the distance. *See* children playing games on the equipment.

Vocabulary

- Pick focus words from class texts or your home readers - Use the focus words in your everyday conversations.
- Ask questions using your focus words and the 5 W's –
  'When, Where, What, Who, Why'

Imagine

- Picture read – Imagine what is happening and could happen next?
- Imagine different ways for stories to end
- Imagine you are a character in the story – What would you do?