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Vocabulary Instruction

- Vocabulary knowledge is probably the most essential component of language development and reading comprehension.
- Children must hear vocabulary elaborated and used in multiple ways to add words to their productive repertoire.
- Below are two strategies to (1) preview and (2) make meaning to current vocabulary being introduced in the curriculum. Enjoy!

Vocabulary Preview- "Anything Goes!"

Procedure: (1) Read the target words with the students;
(2) Ask a variety of questions such as "Who can pronounce this word? Who can put this word in a sentence? How many syllables does this word have? Which words are people? What is the difference between ___ and ___?"

Active Meaning Making- "Your brain gets a thrill when your body's not still!"

Gestures provide a tag we can use to retrieve a word's meaning. The gesture helps trigger the brain's indexing system. Students may then become more interested and motivated in their learning.

Procedure: (1) Develop gestures for target vocabulary.
(2) Play charades.
(3) Use raps, rhymes and jingles (Examples: "Hang loose obtuse," "That's a cute angle" – acute; "Right on" – right angle).