

Developmental Vocabulary List

This list is not thought to be complete or the only one to be used, but rather a base from which to choose. Choose words that relate to your own needs and daily routines. Vocabularies within rural families differ widely from urban families. Many words are listed because they are easier to say (consisting of earlier developing sounds). Please use actual vocabulary instead of made-up words, such as 'koko' for dinosaur. It's ok to use nicknames, but these words should be accompanied by the appropriate more conventional terms. Teach politeness words, such as *please* and *thank you*, by example – modeling is best. These polite words don't carry concrete meaning making them difficult to teach and understand. Instead, have fun being polite to each other! Young children will learn these words while watching and listening to you.

Survival Words – words with safety and basic needs in mind

yes	no	help	stop
more	me	mine	hot
eat	drink	sit	walk
look/see	come here	go	line up

Animals – pet names or animal sounds may be heard before actual labels for animals or even human names. Children often make the animal sound, such as moo before using the actual label, cow.

<u>Pets</u>	<u>Farm</u>	<u>Zoo</u>	<u>Forest</u>
dog	horse	monkey	owl
cat	cow	elephant	bear
fish	sheep	camel	fox
hamster	pig	giraffe	mouse
bird	goat	zebra	deer
gerbil	chicken	lion	moose
rabbit	duck	tiger	squirrel
turtle	turkey	kangaroo	skunk
<u>Pond</u>	<u>Ocean</u>	<u>Insects</u>	<u>Animal Sounds</u>
turtle	whale	bee	meow (cat)
frog	shark	fly	moo (cow)
salamander	dolphin	mosquito	baaa (sheep)
beaver	seal	worm	roar (lion)
otter	walrus	spider	growl, bark
snake	fish	caterpillar	quack (duck)
goose	crab	butterfly	ribbet (frog)
duck	clam	ant	honk (goose)

Foods and Related Words – Choose words that help your child make useful choices.

eat	drink	hungry	full
thirsty	breakfast	lunch	dinner
milk	juice	cheese	meat
chicken	hamburger	egg	hot dog
pizza	french fries	spaghetti/noodles	soup
cracker	cookie	toast	bread
potato	corn	beans	peas
apple	banana	orange	grapes
ice cream	popcorn	chips	cheese puffs
candy	soda/pop	lollipop/sucker	gum

Body Parts – Children tend to focus on faces first making those parts the first labeled. A great time to work on body parts is during bath or while being changed. Teaching body parts is helpful for later discussion of illnesses or 'where does it hurt' questions.

eyes	ears	nose	mouth
tongue	teeth	hair	toes
fingers	belly/tummy	feet	hands
legs	arms	head	back
cheeks	chin	neck	chest

Clothing – Though often a frustrating endeavor, allowing children the opportunity to get dressed on their own or with minimal help, creates a sense of empowerment. And it's simple! Granted, children's choices may not be conventional and likely won't match, but as long as clothing is protective and appropriate for the weather, it can be one of the first endeavors at independence. And in the long run may allow parents more time for other activities or more needy siblings. Babies love to pull off socks and shoes! Use this time to begin a labeling exercise.

clothes	coat	jacket	hat
gloves	mittens	boots	shoes
socks	shirt	pants	dress
swimsuit	shorts	sunglasses	sandals/flip-flops

Vehicles – *These days many children spend a great deal of time traveling from one place to another. Use the time wisely to teach labels of vehicles or practice making vehicle sounds. Vroom!*

car	train	van	truck
boat	bike	plane	helicopter
tractor	motorcycle	bus	ferry

Places – *This is where urban and rural differences will occur.*

home	child care	school	church
synagogue	drugstore	mall	grocery store
restaurant	toy store	post office	hospital
doctor	dentist	fire station	police
farm	field	lake	ocean

Prepositions or location words – *Sometimes learned relatively early as prepositions are tangible/concrete for the most part. "Uppy Daddy."*

up	down	here	there
in	out	on	around
over, above	under, below	back	front
in front of	in back of	next to	beside
before	after	between	through

Verbs – *Action words. Usually beginning verbs are those that can be acted out.*

stand	fall	lie down	dance
jump	climb	sit	walk
go	run	look	see
eat	drink	feed	stop
love	like	want	need
wait	help	give	take
come	ride	make	break
stay	push	bring	hide
find	get	sleep	potty
line up	follow	swim	hurt

Let your child lead you through play and you follow along adding appropriate labels developing vocabulary. ***Have fun as your child learns new words!***

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