

THE READY FAMILY

*An Important Component of Preparing a
School-Ready Child*

School
Readiness
Starts at Home



What is School Readiness?



Five Factors of School Readiness

- ❑ According to the National School Readiness Study, there are five important factors that influence school readiness.
- ❑ These include **motor skills, cognition and general knowledge, language and literacy, social-emotional interactions, and approach to learning.**
- ❑ Typically, readiness skills are grouped into three general areas: **(1) academic skills, (2) social-emotional skills, and (3) learning-related behaviors.**



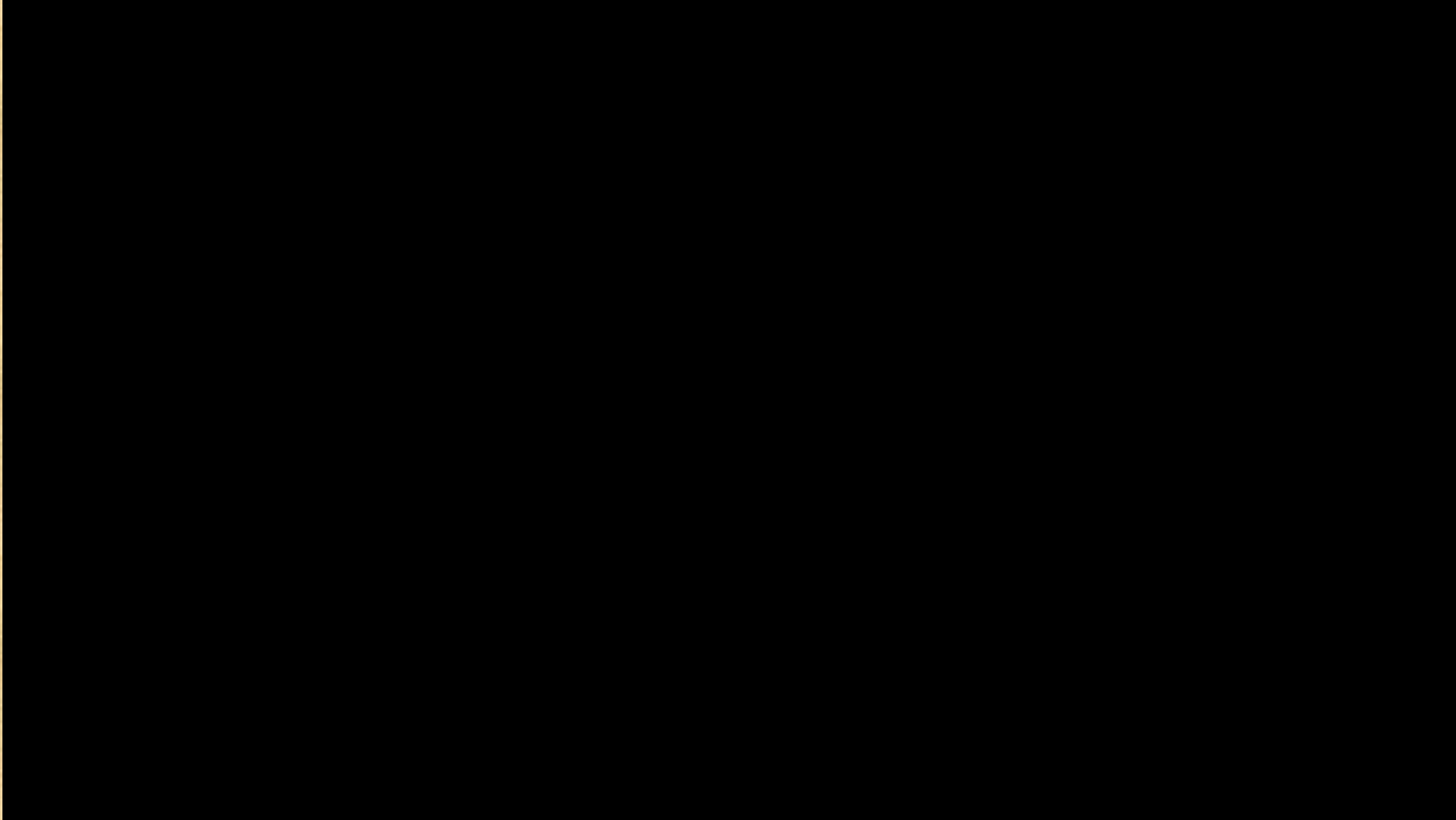
Kindergarten-ready Family

- Daily kindergarten routines and schedules
- Importance of respect for teachers and classmates
- Establishes ground rules
- Differences between acceptable home behavior and acceptable public behavior.
- Establishes family routines early within a child's daily cycle.
- Other skills that children gain from experiencing structured routines:
 - asking for help
 - completing simple tasks
 - accepting limits
 - taking care of personal needs



A Day in the Life of a Kindergartener

<https://youtu.be/umOEjKPQjs4>



<https://sesameworkshop.org>



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Kindergarten is not what it used to be.

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Many parents remember kindergarten as a time of finger-painting, playing with blocks, and eating graham crackers. While these activities still have a place in the kindergarten classroom, a lot has changed over the years.

With increasing numbers of children attending preschool and schools across the nation instituting Pre-K and full-day kindergarten programs, students are not only entering kindergarten more prepared to learn but also have more time in which to do so.



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Kindergarten is a much **more academically rigorous environment** than many parents remember.

Your kindergartener will be learning much more than how to share and learn how to use classroom materials. Be prepared to see your child's reading skills blossom and mathematical mind challenged. In addition to learning the alphabet and the sounds of letters, your child will learn to recognize sight words, read simple predictable books, and write. Your child will learn basic math skills that include numeral and number recognition and grouping, which serves as the foundation for later complex math skills.



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Academic skills are only part of kindergarten readiness.

Your child may already know the entire alphabet, count to 20, maybe even read a few words, but these skills are of secondary importance to many kindergarten teachers. There are a number of other readiness skills that will give your child an advantage for kindergarten success.

Ask yourself the following questions to get a better sense of your child's readiness:



Academic skills are only part of kindergarten readiness.



- Is my child able to **complete personal needs tasks independently** or at least willing to try? (i.e., button or snap pants, zip jacket, use toilet without help, wash hands)
- Does my child know how to **use crayons, a pencil, scissors**? Allowing your child many opportunities to explore and use supplies during creative play better prepares them for the academic requirements of school.
- Can my child **state his/her full name, address, and phone number**?



Academic skills are only part of kindergarten readiness.



- Does my child have the **oral language skills** to make his/her needs and wants clearly understood?
- Can my child **separate from me for hours** at a time without distress?
- Is my child able to **follow one- and two-step directions** and adhere to rules?
- Can my child **sit still and pay attention** for at least ten minutes?
- Does my child **get along well with other children?** (I.e., able to cooperate? Does my child hit, kick, bite?)

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Learning is a full-time endeavor and you are your child's primary teacher.

Learning doesn't begin at 7:45 and end at 2:45. Your child will learn a lot and will be exposed to many new ideas, but at the end of the day it's up to **YOU** to keep that learning going. Teachers rely on parents to reinforce newly learned skills as a way to promote ongoing success. Ask your child what he/she is learning and find ways to extend that learning. It can be as simple as finding books at the local library to explore a topic more deeply, play a board game to reinforce counting, or reading together every day.



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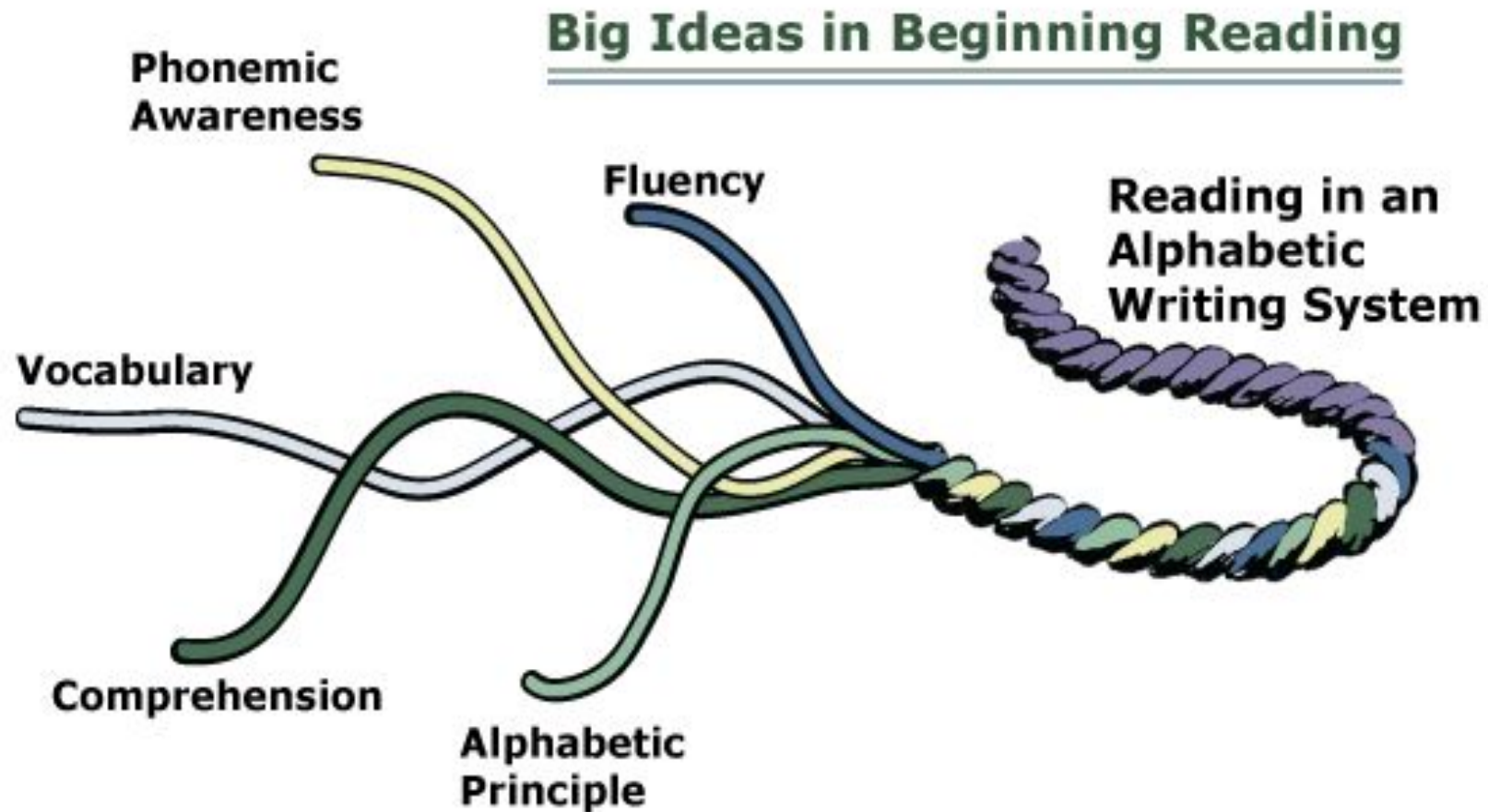
The Importance of Vocabulary

Vocabulary

- The words we use both express and shape who we are.
- Our vocabulary, even more than our accent, give away our social and educational background.
- As a major factor in determining what we can understand, our vocabulary opens or closes access to sources of information that will impact our future.



Vocabulary and Reading

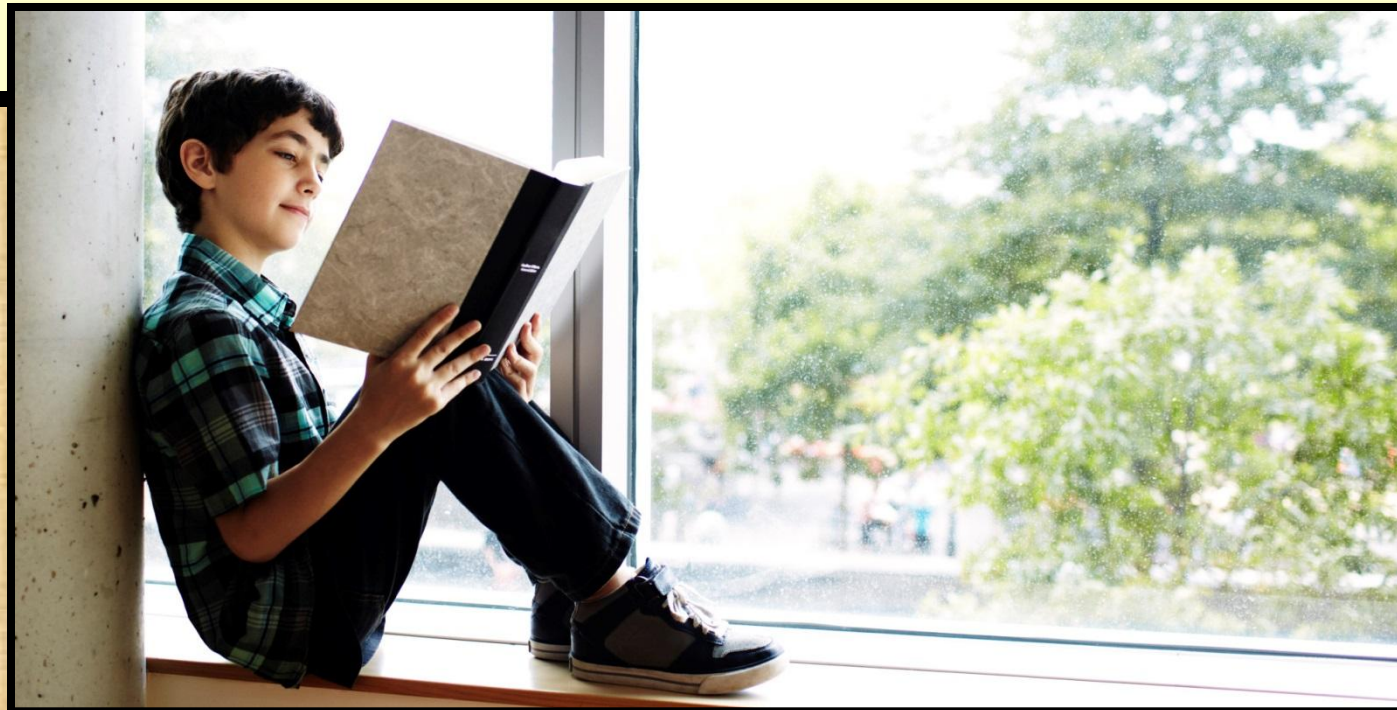


Vocabulary Acquisition Begins Early

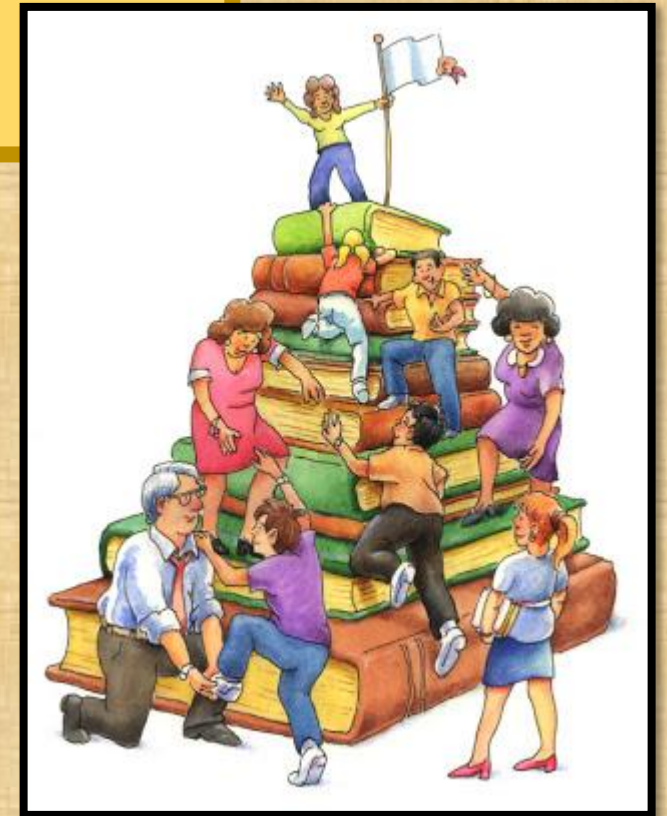
- Rapid vocabulary growth happens in the preschool years
- Pre-school vocabulary size is highly predictive of reading success



- ❑ Children who hear fewer words are not acquiring words fast enough to sustain them as successful readers
- ❑ Words children hear and use from birth to age 5 are words they will comprehend as readers in elementary school.



- ❑ Children encounter reading difficulties in 3rd and 4th grade if texts use unfamiliar words
- ❑ Children's spoken vocabularies need to be about 2 years ahead of their reading vocabularies to comprehend words they can decode.





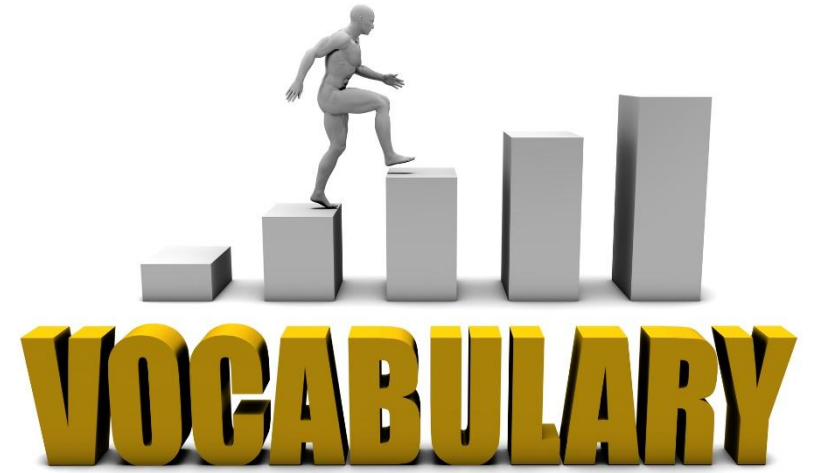
The “Matthew” Effect

- The more words you know, the more you can read successfully
- The more you read, the more words you will learn successfully
- For children starting school with a limited vocabulary, “more” reading does not result in “more” vocabulary



Children Learn New Words...

- ❑ In daily face-to-face communication with attentive adults
- ❑ If encouraged to speak frequently and use new words
- ❑ Gradually, in small increments. Children must hear new words multiple times in different contexts.
- ❑ Through action and experience. Young children will learn new words from context only if they pay attention to them.



Most Effective Everyday Practices to Develop Vocabulary

- ❑ **Pointing and naming**
- ❑ **Everyday conversations**
- ❑ **Narrating everyday activities**
- ❑ **Storybook reading**
- ❑ **Storytelling**



Use Book Reading to Build Vocabulary

- Look through the book and talk about what you see in the pictures
- Ask questions periodically as you read
- Explain new words and concepts
- Reread favorite books as often as your child asks



Think about this...

The English language contains over 500,000 words, yet only approximately 15,000 words are used in everyday speech, and only about 7,000 words on television.



Questions That Lead to Thinking and Language



Describe.
*"What do you see?"
"What do you hear?"*

Explain.
"Why do you think that?"

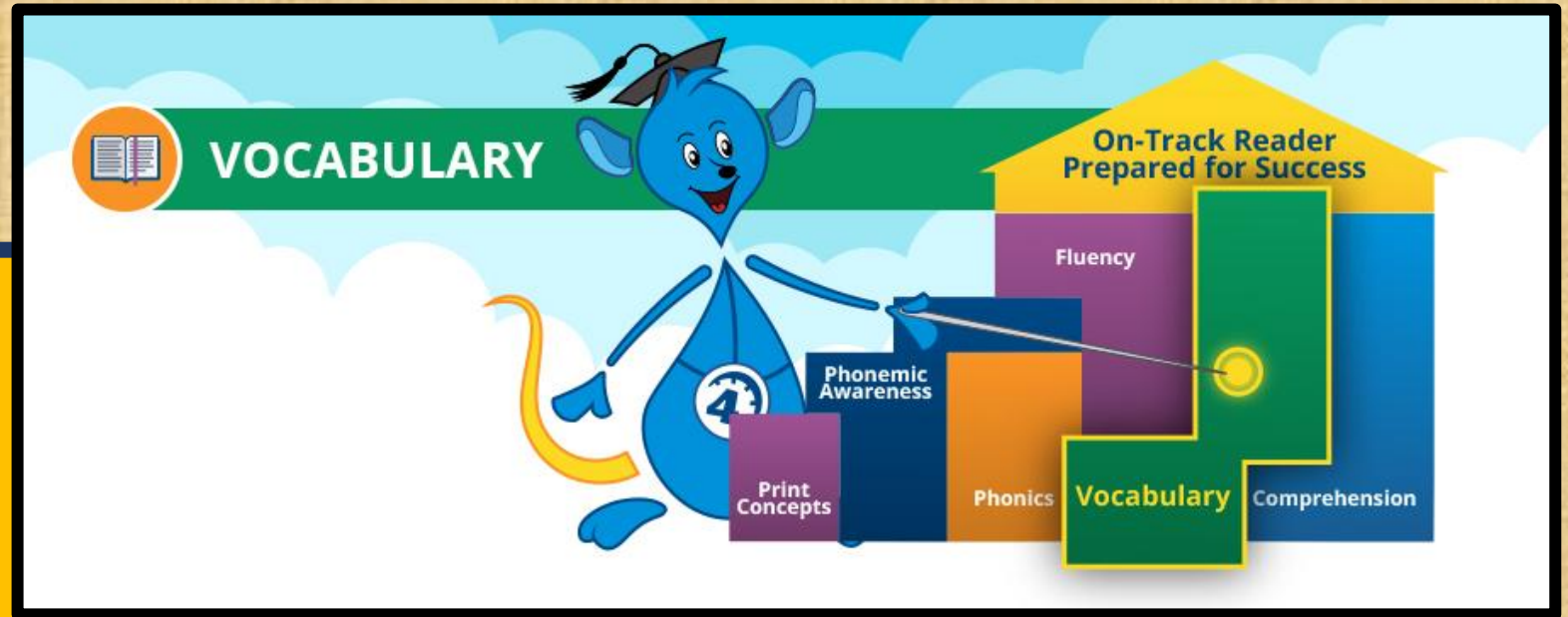
Connect.
"Has something like that ever happened to you?"

Predict.
"What do you think will happen next?"

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Remember...

- ❖ Your child's vocabulary growth is directly linked to his/her overall school achievement.
- ❖ The size of your child's vocabulary in kindergarten will predict his/her ability to learn to read.
- ❖ The more words your child knows, the more information your child has access to.
- ❖ Having a large vocabulary helps your child think and learn about the world.



The strong-willed child



TIPS for Dealing with Your Strong-willed Child

Tip 1: Identify Your Child's Most Common Power Struggles

Tip 2: Give Your Child Some Power and Control

Tip 3: Show Some Empathy and Respect

Tip 4: Find a Routine That Works

Tip 5: Focus on Problem-Solving, **NOT** Punishment



Questions?



Thank you!

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