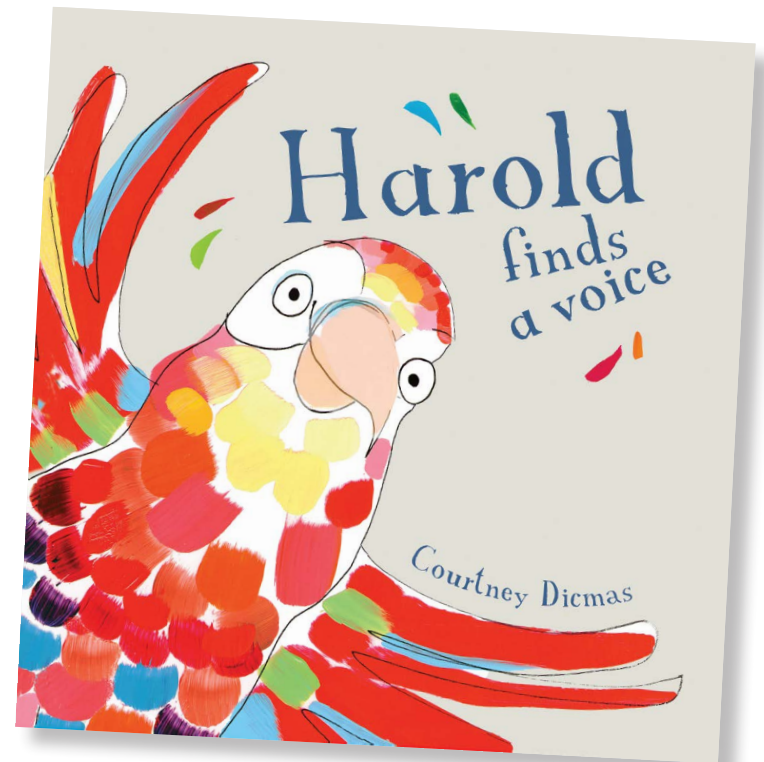


# Use Your Words! Building Vocabulary

You can help your child be a better reader and writer later by building their vocabulary now. We know that children that have bigger vocabularies tend to be better readers and writers. They just have more words to draw on to express themselves. Helping children learn new words can be so easy and fun, we sometimes don't even think about it. Here are some ideas to help you:

- **Create a “word-curious”** environment. Praise your child when they ask what a word means. Look it up together if you don't know.
- **Avoid “talking down”** to your child but also avoid talking to him like he's in college. Try and use vocabulary that might be just a little above your child's ability.
- **Model an interest** in words by saying things like, “I just love the sound of that word. I want to use it more,” or “Hmm, that's an interesting word. I wonder what it means. What do you think?”
- **Talk through what your day** will hold each day, “First, we're going to have breakfast. Then, we'll go to preschool. After preschool, we'll have a picnic in the park. What do you think we should pack for our picnic?” By using the language of past and future tense by talking about things that have already happened and anticipating things that will happen, you help children understand the different forms we use for verbs.



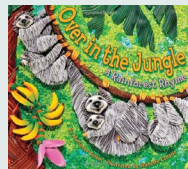
*Raising Readers' 4-year selection for 2014*

**raising  
readers**

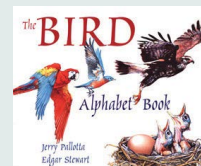
*Your child might also enjoy...*



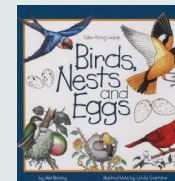
**I like Me!**  
by Nancy Carlson



**Over in the Jungle**  
by Marianne Berkes



**The Bird Alphabet**  
by Jerry Pallotta



**Birds, Nests and Eggs**  
by Mel Boring