WORD WIZARD

Children need to say and hear thousands of words each year to build their reading vocabulary. The Word Wizard activity is an ongoing vocabulary building activity that uses sequenced activities for increasing children’s speaking and listening vocabulary.

◆ Engage in vocabulary activities after a story has been read.

SEQUENCED ACTIVITIES:
1. Talk about how the word was used in the story.
2. Have the student say the word.
3. Give a friendly definition of the word.
4. Use the word in a different context than the one in the story.
5. Have the student use the word in a sentence.
6. Repeat saying the word aloud. “What’s the word we’ve been talking about?”
7. Record the word to a vocabulary list.

HOW TO CHOOSE VOCABULARY WORDS FROM YOUR STUDENT’S READINGS:
1. Words useful for writing and talking
2. Words that appear frequently in other text
3. Words that can be worked with in a variety of ways
4. Words which children can understand and which can be easily explained

ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WORD…
When might you…? How might you…? Why might you…?

WAYS TO REINFORCE MEANING:
- Words that mean the same (for example: drowsy – sleepy, tired)
- Words that mean the opposites (drowsy – awake)
- Give other forms of the word (drowsy – drowsily)
- Act out the word (show how you would look if you felt drowsy)

◆ Review vocabulary every time you meet.
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I pay attention to words!

Word Watcher