

Basic Vocabulary for Early Years

Nouns are the names of things. Below is a list of frequently used nouns that all young children should know. Nouns can be introduced to children using objects or illustrations.

Home house door window floor ceiling wall Furniture table chair bed lounge television rug lamp light cushion shelf bath shower basin sink tap cupboard Kitchen utensils knife fork spoon plate bowl pot pan	Body parts face nose eye cheek ear lips mouth chin forehead teeth eyelash eyebrow hair shoulder neck chest arm elbow wrist hand finger hips leg knee ankle foot toe	Animals Pets cat - kitten dog - puppy goldfish rabbit bird mouse Farm cow horse sheep pig goat hen – chicken Wildlife bear lion bird deer giraffe monkey tiger elephant zebra rhinoceros seal penguin whale duck swan Australian Wildlife kangaroo koala platypus wombat crocodile
Plants tree leaf branch trunk flower shrub	Family mother father girl (daughter) boy (son) sister brother grandmother grandfather uncle aunt cousin	Colours red blue yellow green orange black white brown grey purple pink

Nouns

Food Fruit apple banana orange grape mandarin lemon pineapple strawberry peach nectarine cherry plumb watermelon mango kiwifruit avocado tomato Dairy milk cheese cream butter yoghurt	Food Vegetables potato beans peas cabbage lettuce carrot onion celery corn beetroot capsicum pumpkin cucumber eggplant zucchini Other nuts spaghetti cereal biscuits cake	Transport car bus train ship – boat airplane bicycle
People and Occupations doctor dentist nurse teacher shopkeeper farmer police officer fire fighter post person	Landforms hill mountain valley river – creek, stream ocean – sea beach	Emotions and expressions happy sad frightened angry worried curious impressed

Verbs. As verbs are words that refer to actions, they are not as easy as nouns to introduce using objects or pictures. Verbs can be introduced to students through activity. The teacher can say a verb and ask the class to perform the action.

walk run hop jump skip climb crawl swing slide wiggle sit stand	touch pat scratch shrug knock grab hold point catch throw	eat drink chew swallow
smile frown blink wink nod listen think	bend twist fold turn look	cut paste tear paint draw slice read write

Prepositions are important because they demonstrate the relationships between words.

Prepositions which children should be able to use accurately include:

on near among during after behind at from inside into near onto	between beneath about along below of by out outside past near since	in over beside above around beyond off through throughout till towards underneath	to under against across before for up upon with within without until
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