

Building Vocabulary through Music and Movement

Excerpted from “Wild About Words” workshop
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Treasure Full of Vocabulary Surprises!

Decorate a container (box, can, bag, etc.) and introduce it to your children as their very own treasure full of letters and words. On a daily basis, or a few times a week, invite your children to go on a “treasure hunt” to find the treasure. Once it is found, explore new letters and words, or review and expand usage of known letters and words in any of the following ways.

Living Theme-Based Words

One picture is taken out of the treasure. Children are invited to identify other words that relate to this picture. A small group of children can stand in a line, then each individual becomes one of the related words through an action, a sound, etc. (Ex. **wheel** – identify types of transportation: car, bicycle, motorcycle, fire truck – one child pretends to turn a steering wheel of a car, one child gets on his back and uses his feet to pedal a bicycle, one child makes sounds of a motorcycle, one child makes sounds of a fire truck siren.) A story line can be added in which every time one of the words is said aloud by the teacher, everyone, or just the four individuals, do their action or sound.

Winter – individuals stand in a row and use bodies to show characteristics of weather during the winter – e.g. cold (shivering), snow (hand motion), wind (arm motion and sound), ice (ice skating motion)