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Creative Strategies to Improve Vocabulary Teaching

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ABSTRACT: This article is devoted to describe creative vocabulary strategies that help teachers educate children as they learn new words effectively. Vocabulary skills are critical to each student's academic achievement. In and out of the classroom, student success depends on grasping reading comprehension and English language development. Developmental delays, reading difficulties and infrequent exposure to new words can cause setbacks in student progress. However, most teachers agree that passive learning is not the best way to help students grow their vocabulary skills.

KEYWORD: Vocabulary teaching, wordplay activities, teaching strategies, games, creativeness, word wall.

Vocabulary is understanding how to use words in relation to their meaning. Developing new vocabulary involves more than just looking up words in a dictionary and using those words in sentences. Students' vocabulary grows throughout their lifetime through direct and indirect learning. You can adopt direct teaching methods such as:

- ➤ Introducing specific word instruction geared toward increased comprehension and vocabulary.
- Leading wordplay activities that build upon previously learned words.
- Encouraging students to read often to boost their word knowledge and language development.
- ➤ Using the dictionary to teach word meanings and asking students to use those words in sentences during class participation.
- ➤ Utilizing Cognate Awareness (ELL) to teach kids similar words in English and other languages, such as Spanish. Cognates are two words in different languages that have similarities including spelling, meaning, and pronunciation.
- Making speaking skills a priority when learning vocabulary.

When teachers use word learning techniques and teaching strategies like dictionary use, morphemic analysis, cognate awareness and contextual analysis, students catch on quickly and can recall new words, synonyms and antonyms. Each of these components builds on their prior knowledge of other words to create their own vocabulary library. Effective teaching strategies include various methods you can use in the classroom today:

- 1. Expose students to the same word many times to support learning
- 2. Give students the definition of the word and ask them to write that word in a sentence
- 3. Use graphic organizers to define new words

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- 4. Teaching kids to be independent and learn how to correct their own errors it's ok to make mistakes!
- 5. Bring technology into the classroom and use digital tools suited to teaching vocabulary.
- 6. Let students practice often
- 7. Simple and effective vocabulary strategies help your students build an impressive vocabulary.

We are going to suggest following strategies that each teacher should have a look to help students to teach vocabulary successfully.

- Reading stories to your students. It helps them to question and learn specific words. Books that contain pictures may help reinforce the 'bigger' words for your students. Deepening vocabulary skills takes a lifetime. It's vital that students understand how to learn new words so that they don't feel singled out if they're struggling to enhance their vocabulary.
- ➤ Take a student's perspective. You understand what it's like to grow your own vocabulary you've been doing it for many years! With your higher education and experience in reading and writing, there is much wisdom you can pass onto your students. Adjust lesson plans to accommodate any problems that students encounter as they learn new words. Show them how to take a word they've never heard of before, sound it out and show its use in a sentence or two. They'll pick up on its meaning through the sentences.
- > Try using a word wall. A word wall encourages kids to focus on learning new words. Word walls are easy to create! Simply type or handwrite a list of words in large letters and hang them up on a bulletin board or a wall where students can see it every day. Be sure to add new words throughout the year so that your students deepen their knowledge of unknown words and their meaning. Invite your students to take part in creating a bigger wall and add pictures, synonyms and antonyms to each word. If they're having trouble grasping the meaning of specific words, adding synonyms can help ease confusion. Word walls provide a fun way to increase your students' vocabulary skills.
- ➤ Connect word meanings with semantic mapping. Semantic mapping is a type of graphic organizer that displays a relationship between specific words and phrases. Select one student to draw a keyword on the chalkboard. Next, encourage students to participate in creating the map and write words that are connected to the keyword. For example, a student or teacher could write the keyword "farm" on the chalkboard. Your students would take turns writing words such as cow, barn, horse, hay and farmer. Semantic maps help build students' vocabulary and reading comprehension. Teachers can add more challenging words each week. As students grow their vocabulary, they'll become confident in their reading and writing abilities.

To sum up, above mentioned strategies and Games are an essential tool in vocabulary teaching process. They allow students to think outside the box, put what they've learned to immediate use, create experiences with their classmates, and break away from lessons that could otherwise be tedious.

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