



Word Aware



Word Aware is a whole school vocabulary approach to promote vocabulary development in children. This method of developing spoken and written vocabulary in all children is evidence-based following extensive research by Anna Branagan and Stephen Parsons. It is of particular value for children with special education needs and for those learning English as an additional language.

At Teagues Primary, Word Aware lessons take place daily to help build their understanding of new vocabulary that we then hope to see in their independent writing. Our sessions are fun, engaging and build on previous learning. The children learn a new word each day and then play games at the end of the week to embed their understanding of the new vocabulary taught. The 'Fridge Words' sheet is then sent home for you to discuss these new words with your child.

Principles of vocabulary teaching:

Link oral and written vocabulary

Use a range of methods

Sustain Effort

Go with the child (at the right rate)

Use multiple exposures

Teach words in context

Teach strategies

Have fun



Using a Four pronged approach (4 strands)

- 1) Teaching vocabulary (STAR)
- 2) Word detective: Making phonological and semantic associations.
- 3) Make words count: Word learning strategies, identifying whole words.
- 4) Fun with words: Big Brain (I think with my big brain something that is (meaning clue) and it starts with a (letter clue)

Teaching vocabulary: Teaching topic related vocabulary using STAR approach.

S- Select words from the curriculum.

- Anchor words are basic words that are useful and words that the whole class should know.
- Goldilocks words are useful words that are likely to be encountered in reading/oral language.
- Step on words that are less familiar but helpful as extensions.

T- Teach words.

- Symbol: link it to visuals
- Phonology: Clap, rhyme, initial sound
- Semantics: meaning
- Sentence: put it into a sequence
- Action: act it out
- Song: song or rap
- Word wall: write it on the wall.

A – Activate

- Practical group work that engages the children.
- Adults use the word many times.
- Prompt children to use the word.
- Link vocabulary to activity

R – Review

- Reviewing words helps words fix into long term memory.
- This needs to be done through words games or another simple way is to have a 'word pot'.
- A copy of the words can be sent home.
- Encourage parents and children to use the word at home.



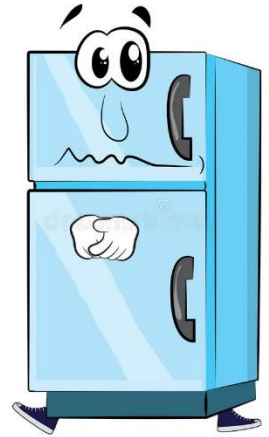
EXAMPLE:



Word Aware Homework

Fridge Words

Your child has been learning these new words in school. Please put this sheet on the fridge to remind your child which words he/she has been learning. Talk to him/her about the words. Talk about the words rather than ask questions. Can you tell your child what the words mean? Can your child use these words in a sentence?



tavern

tremors

politician

lament

sorrow

