



One way to extend conversations with children in the classroom is by incorporating novel words. Here are several strategies for including novel words in conversations.

Incorporating novel words takes planning:

- Identify novel words:
 - » Brainstorm with colleagues.
 - » Search children's books, poems, and songs.
 - » Use a thesaurus to find alternative ways to say the same word.
- Select materials that expand children's vocabulary:
 - » Small vehicle sets (e.g., ambulance, crane, helicopter)
 - » People figures (e.g., astronaut, pediatrician, chef)
 - » Everyday materials in dramatic play (e.g., colander, stethoscope, helmet)
 - » Children's books
- Create child-friendly definitions in advance:
 - » Simple
 - » Focus on attributes
 - » No unfamiliar words

Incorporating novel words takes intentionality:

- Select words that are important for comprehension and useful in everyday interactions.
- Allow for spontaneous conversations with children and use novel words in these conversations.
- Model rich vocabulary in responses to children.
- Be aware of the words a child already understands and add novel words that build on familiar concepts.
- Expose children to novel words and have conversations with children during any activity during the day like: meal time, circle time, story time, free play experience, and dramatic play.