



**Ready To Learn.**

**Iowa Public  
Television**



## Teaching New Words from Books

### Explain what the word means.

- **With people, places or things:**
  - **Balloon:** Show a balloon, or point to a picture of a balloon in a book, and say, “*This is a balloon.*”
  - **Smooth:** Show a smooth rock and say, “*This rock is smooth. Feel this smooth rock.*”
- **With action words: Act out the word; then have children act it out.**
  - **Under:** “*I am putting my hand under my chair. Put your hand under your chair.*”
  - **Guess:** Hold a coin in one of your hands and ask the child to guess which hand it is in. Say, “*You don’t know which hand has the coin, but can you guess?*”
- **You can also show a video clip where the word is illustrated: “Clifford is running.”**
- **With describing words:**
  - **Soft:** “*This stuffed animal is soft. Feel it. It is soft.*”

### Repeat the new word often.

- **The first few times you repeat the new word, you may want to do so slowly and dramatically to call attention to it.**
- **Make this into a game: “Every time you hear me use the word “soft”, raise your hand.”**

### Encourage children to say the new word often.

“Say the word ‘guess’ with me.”

### Use the new word often throughout the day.

- **After you read the book:**
  - **Balloon:** Blow up a balloon and bat it around.
  - **Delighted:** Make a picture of someone looking delighted or cut pictures of people from magazines who look delighted.
  - **Smooth:** Cut up a piece of fruit that has a smooth surface (apple) and eat it as a snack.

#### **Adapted from:**

*Every Child Reads: Birth to Kindergarten Training Curriculum, Parent Follow-up Module(Reading). Des Moines, IA: Iowa Department of Education, April 2001.*

#### **Resources:**

- *Beck, Isabel (1998). Understanding beginning reading: A journey through teaching and research, pp. 11-31, in Osborn, J. and Lehr.F. (Eds), Literacy for all: Issues in teaching and learning.*
- *Iowa Department of Education, 2005. Reading Module, Principle1, Handout R-5.*