

Things We Eat

Subject:

Vocabulary development.

Focus:

Use of functional words.

Overview:

Infants and toddlers with special needs should have the opportunity to hear language within meaningful contexts to increase their vocabulary.

Purpose:

To help infants and toddlers learn new words needed to communicate with caretakers and get their needs met.

Objectives:

1. Learn functional words.
2. Say single vocabulary words.
3. Advance language development and, in turn, emotional and social development.
4. Assist with verbal expression.

Resource Materials:

- Infant/toddler picture book about food (e.g., *Scratch and Sniff: Food*).
- Small photo book in which to place pictures of the child's favorite foods.
- Small pieces of food appropriate to the child's level.

Activities and Procedures:

1. Sit with the child on your lap or in close proximity and let the child explore the book.
2. Read the book to the child and emphasize the words of the food items.
3. Use plastic food as props for toddlers.
4. During mealtimes, present some of the food items (if appropriate) from the book.
5. Ask the child to point to the correct food item you have verbally expressed and offer some to eat.
6. On subsequent days, ask the child to say the word of the food item (provide the word, if necessary).

Tying It All Together:

Have the parents participate in the lesson by creating a small photo book with their child's favorite foods. Encourage the parents to review the vocabulary words at home. Children with special needs will benefit from many opportunities to learn new vocabulary words within meaningful contexts.

Visit www.sagepub.com/gordonbiddle to access templates of these lesson plans.