WAY TO GO! FAMILY LEARNING JOURNAL™

FAMILY ACTIVITY #5

Use Another Word *

This game can be played anywhere, anytime, ***for as long as it feels fun!*** It's good when you are driving in the car, walking to school, eating supper, reading together, or just relaxing.

It's a synonym game. A synonym is another word for something. For instance, "lad" is a synonym for "boy." Learning new synonyms can really ***build*** a child's vocabulary rapidly!

Here are some ways to play this synonym game:

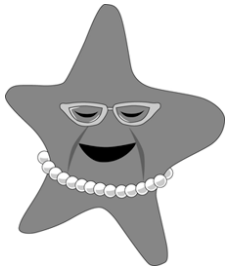
1) When you are reading a book to a child and come across a word for a feeling like "happy" or "sad," see if you or the child can think of another word that ***means the same*** thing — like "joyful" or "tearful."
OR

2) When you are driving or walking, see how many words you and the children can think of to describe actions that some animal might do. For example, if you see a dog running on a sidewalk, ask, "What is ***another word*** for 'run'?" Some possibilities might be 'sprint,' 'dash,' 'lope,' 'jog,' 'scamper,' and more. **OR**

3) Say to your child, "I'm thinking of another word for ___. Can you guess what it is?" For example, "I'm thinking of another word for 'fast.' Can you guess what it is?" The answer might be 'speedy,' 'quick', 'pronto,' 'swift,' or 'rapid.' It's fine to ***give hints*** like, "The word I'm thinking of rhymes with …" or "It starts with…" **OR**

4) When you're watching television or listening to the radio, pick some word you hear and see if you can find a few different ways to say it (during a commercial).

If your want, your whole family can create an on-going list of words and synonyms in the **Tools & Resources** section of your WAY TO GO! FAMILY LEARNING JOURNAL™.



"Words are tools and treasures. I love words! The more we have, the easier it is to communicate ideas and dreams and experiences.

"Plus, words are free! They don't cost anything. We just have to learn them and make them our own. We can take a pile of words and make something beautiful — like a poem or a song. I still love learning new words."

— Grandma Anna

**Use Another Word* supports the English-Language Arts Content Standards related to vocabulary and concept development.

Next month, go to www.familylearningjournal.com for a new Family Activity!

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