

# The New York Public Library

# At Home Activities for Families

## Word Jars

### Overview

You will work with your child to create a word jar that you fill with interesting, funny, or important words to help your child build their vocabulary.

### Ages

Appropriate for children ages 6-9

### Materials Needed for One Child

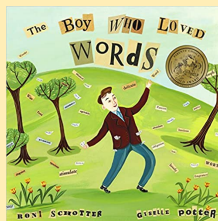
- Pencil
- Slips of paper or sticky notes
- Jar or container
- Magazines & newspapers (optional)

### Paired Books for Virtual Read Alouds

The e-books listed below can be accessed through the New York Public Library's digital collections and touch on the themes of the activity. We recommend reading them with your child before or after completing the activity.



**[Come On, Rain!](#)**  
by Karen Hesse  
*Accessible through the Bookflix database*



**[The Boy Who Loved Words](#)**  
by Roni Schotter  
*Accessible through OverDrive*



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## Activity Instructions

1. Tell your child you are going to make a jar to collect interesting words!
2. Read through one of the recommended read alouds or choose a book you have at home. As you read together, notice interesting words and write them down on sticky notes (or slips of paper). Interesting words can be describing words (adjectives) or movement words (verbs). They can be words that sound funny or words that your child has never heard before. They can be unusual or important words. Any word can be an interesting word! After finishing the book, place the sticky notes in the word jar.
  - If you choose a word to add to your word jar that your child doesn't know the meaning of, make sure to give them a kid-friendly definition of the word.
3. Keep adding to your word jar every time you read a book. Also consider adding words from your child's schoolwork, words found on household items like the back of a cereal box, or words heard on television shows or movies.
  - Optional: If you have kid-friendly magazines at home, let your child cut or tear out interesting words from the magazines to add to the word jar.
4. As you add words to your word jar, make sure you take time to look through and use the words you've already collected! Consider:
  - Choosing a word of the day from the word jar and challenging family members to use that word in conversation that day
  - Choosing 2-3 words from the word jar and writing a story, poem, song, or comic using those words
  - Playing Charades or Pictionary using words from the jar

