

Use Sophisticated Diction

Adept diction is precision in the choice of words that teachers, parents, or others use with students. Because children need to learn more words than can be explicitly taught, they must learn words incidentally in conversation with their teachers, parents, and peers through read alouds.



“The teacher, who is alert to opportunities for using sophisticated, interesting, and precise language, is probably the most important element in a word-rich environment.”
(Beck et al., 2002).

Teachers can use more sophisticated language as a simple way to build receptive language. Some sample words that could be used are:

linger instead of hang around
trajectory instead of goal
elaborate instead of say more
converse instead of talk
options instead of choices
located instead of find
contribute instead of add
bicker instead of argue

A comprehensive list is included in the research section below.