The experiences you and your child share are wonderful opportunities for building and strengthening vocabulary and language.

Here are a few ways you can help build your child’s vocabulary:

- When out in the environment talk about things you are seeing.
- Draw your child’s attention to new things by speaking slowly and emphasizing new words. Use the words multiple times to help your child learn the meanings.
- Talk about new vocabulary you come across when reading books together. Use the new words as often as you can to help your child increase their understanding of the new words.
- Talk about what you are doing while you do it. When your child hears words paired with pictures or actions it makes it easier for them to understand.
- Repeat, Repeat, Repeat.

The following are activities that target vocabulary/expressive language at home. These activities will only take a few minutes, please choose a few each week if you can. Encourage your child and have fun with these activities. Remember to create a good listening environment.

Activities targeting Vocabulary at Home
(Conversation Calendar, Communication Skill Builders, Inc, 1991)

1. Help your child sort objects, pictures, words into categories or groups, for example, “Let’s look for pictures of different animals” “Let’s put all of the fruit in the basket and all of the vegetables in the fridge. Can we think of 3 more types of fruit and 3 more types of vegetables?” or “What things can fly, things that are cold, things that are tiny, things that are soft...?”
2. Play “I Spy” using a variety of descriptive words when describing.
3. Pick 2 things and discuss how they are the same and how they are different, for example, “How are a cat and a dog the same/different, how are a car and a train the same/different, a pencil and paper”
4. Pick an object up and describe it together, use a variety of words such as smooth, rough, crunchy, shiny, tasty, heavy...”