

Vocabulary Password – Fun with Core!

Core Word Clues!

WHAT AND WHY: Gail Van Tatenhove has summarized the concept of 'descriptive language teaching' as follows: "Using a descriptive style, the teacher mentions and references the context-specific words, then teaches concepts behind the words using high frequency, re-usable, common words" (Van Tatenhove, 2009). Vocabulary password is an activity that can be used to help students practice using core language in an engaging, interactive format.

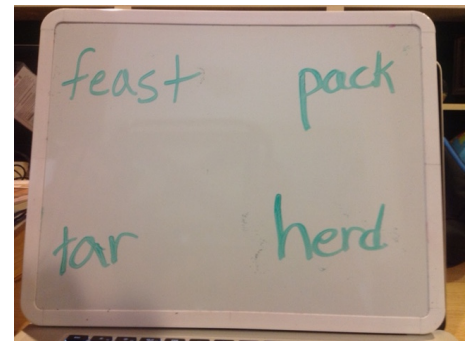
HOW TO PLAY VOCABULARY PASSWORD:

- Choose words for vocabulary password. For example, students were reading a book that included the four words shown to the right. They were instructed to "Listen so you can tell words you know that are like the four words on these cards."

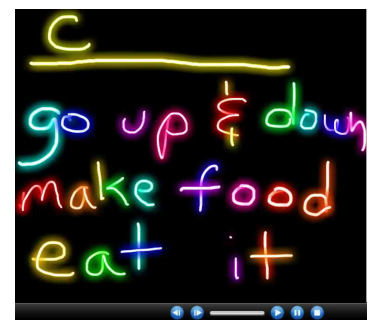


- Model using high frequency, re-usable words to describe one of the words on the cards, and have student(s) guess which it is

- I often 'mine' words for password from books that we are reading. For example, we were reading a story from the app *Prehistoric Pals Collection* from Oceanhouse Media. As we read, I noted some 'fringe' or lower frequency words, and wrote them on a whiteboard. Later, I modeled clues for each, using simple, common words. After several sessions of adult models, students are encouraged to give the clues.



- To enhance engagement, use fun apps such as *Kids Doodle* or *Doodle Buddy*, as shown in the attached photo, showing several clues for the action word 'churning.' It is helpful for students to see the clues as well as the target words for the password game.



ENJOY!

Van Tatenhove, G. (2009). Building Language Competence with Students Using AAC Devices: Six Challenges. *Perspectives on Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 18(2), 38-47.