These cards were designed to build on your child’s natural curiosity to grow vocabulary. You can use them anytime, anywhere!

Spark conversation!
The pictures, words, and definitions will help you talk together about science, the arts, and math.

Questions will lead you to other words.
As your child wonders about a word, you can help him explore other related words in the cards. One word naturally leads to many more!

Put the words into action!
Try some of the fun activities on the cards to explain the meaning of the words and connect them to your child’s experiences.

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You have five senses—sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch—by which you experience the world around you.
TRY THIS: Play a senses guessing game with fruit. Which senses do you use? What does the fruit look like? Smell like? Taste like? Feel like? What does it sound like when you eat it? Play the senses game with other objects, too.

**ANSWER:** One of your senses—smell—can tell you that flowers and cookies smell sweet. Dirty sneakers and old fish smell stinky!
A portrait is a drawing or painting of an actual person.
Which is a portrait of Zoe?

**ANSWER:** The blue frame has a portrait of Zoe. Elmo’s portrait is in the red frame and Abby’s portrait is in the white frame.

**TRY THIS:** Be an artist! Sit in front of a mirror and draw a picture of your face, a *self-portrait*. Use crayons, markers, or even *paintbrushes* and paints. Look closely at your *image* in the mirror. What color are your eyes? Is your hair long or short, straight or curly?
A pattern is something that repeats—with objects that appear in the same order again and again.
Finish each pattern. What comes next?

ANSWER: In the first row, a toy car comes next in the pattern. In the second row, a lemon comes next.

TRY THIS: Arrange fruit slices on a plate to make a pattern (apple, orange, mango; apple, orange, mango; apple, orange, __). What comes next? You can even make a pattern with utensils, napkins, cups, and plates.
When it is a windy day, the air is blowing really fast.
Which activity is better to do on a windy day?

**Answer:**
Kite flying is a better windy-day activity than building a sand castle.

**Try This:** Observe the weather outside together. Are the leaves on the trees blowing, showing that it’s **windy**? Or is it **cloudy**? **Rainy**? **Snowy**? **Chilly**? How do you know? Think about what you see, feel, and even hear.
A tune is a group of musical notes that make a nice sound.
Which child is playing a musical instrument?

**ANSWER:**
The girl is playing a musical **instrument**. She is blowing on a recorder.

**TRY THIS:** Together, play a game of “Finish That **Tune**.” One person can hum the first line of a familiar song. The other player can continue the tune. Then switch! Add to the challenge by changing the tune’s **tempo** — first fast, then slow.
A rhombus is shaped like a diamond and has four sides that are all the same length. It has four angles, too.
Which shape is a rhombus?

ANSWER:
The sign is a rhombus. The traffic cone is a cone, the gift is a cube, and the pizza is a circle.

TRY THIS: Together, look for shapes everywhere! Start with circle (a wheel, for example) and square (a window), then move on to rhombus (a kite) or octagon (which is a shape with eight sides and angles, like a stop sign). How many shapes can you find?
An insect is a small bug that has six legs, two antennae on its head, and sometimes has wings.
Which of these insects can you name?

**ANSWER:**
These insects are a beetle, ant, ladybug, and grasshopper.

**TRY THIS:** Go for a walk outside together. What bugs can you find? When you find an insect, take turns saying its name. Buzz like a bee, hop like a grasshopper, and flutter like a butterfly!
When you blend or mix two or more things together, you combine them.
What color do you get when you combine, or mix, yellow and blue?

**ANSWER:**
When you combine yellow and blue, you get green.

**TRY THIS:** Together, make your own artist’s *palette* to put paint on, using a piece of cardboard. Then combine different colors. Observe what happens when you blend red and blue. What other colors can you create?
A percussion instrument is one that you hit—with your hand or a stick—or sometimes shake.
TRY THIS: Together, look for things around the house that make great percussion instruments. An empty oatmeal (or other) box and a spoon can be a drum, and an unopened box of pasta can be a fun maraca. Turn on some music and use your instruments to keep the beat!
Size is how big or small something is.
Which round ball is the largest? Which is the smallest?

**ANSWER:**
The beach ball is the largest in size, and the golf ball is the smallest.

**TRY THIS:** Measure the size of different objects in your home using a ruler, measuring tape, or an everyday object. For instance, use a boot to measure the length of the bed. How many boots long is it?
The part of the plant that has petals is called a flower. Many flowers have sweet smells and pretty colors.
What color is each flower? Describe your favorite one.

**ANSWER:**
The purple flower shaped like a cup is a tulip, the bell-shaped white one is a lily, the one with lots of red petals is a rose, and the one with white petals and a yellow center is a daisy.

**TRY THIS:** While you walk in the neighborhood or park, play an “I Spy” flower game. When you spot one, notice its different parts: stem, leaves, and petals. Then play the same game indoors by browsing online.
Gigantic means very, very big.
TRY THIS: The search is on! Find gigantic things around the neighborhood: a very big building, a bridge, even a tractor trailer. What other words can you use to mean the same thing? Try humongous, massive, and colossal.

ANSWER: The elephant is gigantic. The kitten, frog, and mouse, are not.
To observe something is to look closely at it to find out more.
What differences can you observe, or notice, among these three leaves?

ANSWER: You can observe that the first leaf is yellow and round, the one in the middle is green and long and skinny, and the last leaf is orange and has lots of points.

TRY THIS: Together, choose an everyday object at home to observe, or look at carefully. Look closely, for example, at a napkin. Are there any shapes or designs on it? What do you notice about the outside of a strawberry or about a whole-wheat tortilla?
When something circles something else, it is going around it.
How many cars are going around the track?

**Answer:**
Six cars are going around the track. Two cars are off the track.

**Try This:** Play a quick game: Try going around a chair. Now stand next to it. Think about how you could go over the chair! Last of all, sit on it!
Turquoise is a greenish-blue color.
TRY THIS: Make a game of naming different colors around a room as you clean up together. Start with simple ones, such as red, blue, green, and yellow, and move on to more unusual colors, such as bright, vibrant turquoise or fuchsia.

ANSWER: The sunglasses, necklace, and ribbon are turquoise. The bunny is not.
Texture is the way something feels when you touch it.
Which one of these things has a soft and fluffy texture?

**ANSWER:**
The puppy has a soft and fluffy texture. The slug is slimy, the cactus is prickly, and the seashell is hard.

**TRY THIS:** Play a guessing game! Put some items with different textures in a paper bag (a bristly brush; a soft, squishy sponge; a silky ribbon; a rough nail file). Close your eyes and describe what it feels like. Then take a guess: What is it?