



Definition Expedition

This activity demonstrates how parents can use technology to promote reading at home. It also helps families learn how to use technology to improve vocabulary. Vocabulary refers to the words a reader knows. Reading vocabulary refers to the words a reader knows when seen in print.

Materials:

- E-reader (e.g., Kindle) or other tablets and smartphones with an e-book application
- E-reader Tip Sheet handout to provide parents information on how to use e-readers with their child
- Definition Expedition worksheet (provided)

Preparation:

- Download a short e-book (related to your theme, if possible) on the digital reader. See provided list for suggested theme-related books. The availability of specific book titles varies depending on the digital reader used. Books also can be downloaded on a smartphone, via an e-book application, if an e-reader is not available.
- If there are e-readers available, set the font to a larger size by default – this is especially important for young readers!
- Print copies of the Definition Expedition worksheet for facilitator use and for families to take home.

Activity Instructions:

1. Show families how to turn on devices and select a book.
2. Demonstrate the ways an e-book can support children reading to include the following:
 - Show parents how they can adjust text and font settings for a customized view for their child.
 - Demonstrate the ability to look up an unfamiliar word by holding the word until the build-in dictionary provides the definition of the word in a pop-up box.
 - Demonstrate how to highlight text on the device.
 - Explain that e-readers have the capacity to hold a library of books in one location and are portable!
3. Make sure each family has a copy of the Definition Expedition worksheet. Invite them to use the technology available and read together. While reading they must find four new words and write the word and the definition on the worksheet.



Words

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Definitions

