Instant Vocabulary Success... Just Add Students

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Teachers spend "little time discussing the meanings of words". Rather, most attention to vocabulary involved mentioning -a word or synonym- and assigning- mostly words to be looked up in the dictionary.

2003 Scott, Jamieson-Noel and Asselin
Observational study of 23 intermediate grade classrooms.
Comprehension Goal = clarification

Vocabulary Enhancement Goal = elaboration
INSTRUCTIONAL ROUTINE

- Contextualize the word within the story
- Use a student friendly explanation
- Provide additional contexts
- Engage students in opportunities to actively process word meanings
- Provide for a high frequency of encounters with variety

Students who received four times as many encounters produced twice as much learning

Beck, McKeown, 2007
VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

- Making Choices
- True/False
- Word Associations
- Sentence Starters
VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

- Scenarios
- Create a List
- Charades
- Pictionary
Goliath Bird-eating Spider

- disgusting
- soggy
- grasping
- devouring
- slurp
- reassure
RESOURCES

Bringing Words to Life by Isabel Beck, Margaret McKeown, Linda Kucan

How BIG is it? by Ben Hillman

Student Friendly Dictionaries
- Collins Cobuild Active English Dictionary
- Longman Dictionary of American English

Web Sites
- wordsmyth.com