

5 Ways to Build Language Skills with Apples to Apples Junior

Apples to Apples Junior is a fast-paced card game that is not only a ton of fun, it's also a wonderful way to expand your child's language arts skills! As you play, try incorporating the ideas below to sneak a little learning into the fun.

- 1. Learn nouns (including some gerunds) and adjectives.** As you play the game, help kids understand what nouns and adjectives are and how they are used. The noun cards may also include gerunds (words formed with verbs ending in *ing* that act as nouns, like *surfing* and *shopping*). To find a gerund, look for *ing*.
- 2. Build vocabulary.** Noun cards include a short definition or description, giving your child the opportunity to build his vocabulary as he plays.
- 3. Encourage creative word play.** The game encourages children to think outside the box and find new ways to describe both familiar words and new additions to their vocabulary. It's fun for kids (and adults, too!) to explain why they chose a particular card during game play.
- 4. Play with words and their meanings.** The descriptions on some cards are meant to be funny. For example, the description on the hamburger card asks, *Do you want fries with that?* These fun descriptions provide great opportunities for discussion about the words and their meanings!
- 5. Play with synonyms.** Adjective cards feature words like *talented*, *interesting*, and *goofy*. Each adjective card also lists two synonyms for the featured word, introducing kids to shades of meaning and expanding their descriptive vocabulary.



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