Build vocabulary knowledge

Supporting recognition of new vocabulary means ākonga can focus more on comprehension instead of decoding.

The **literacy pedagogy guides** contain useful links for building vocabulary in each subject area.

- ✔ Determine the words that might be challenging, before lessons.
- ✔ Co-construct lists of topic specific vocabulary with ākonga, and revisit often.
- ✔ Support ākonga to identify root words, prefixes and suffixes and build knowledge of their meanings. Point out patterns in the pronunciation and spelling of prefixes, suffixes, and vowels in selected words (e.g. rac-ism, sex-ism, age-ism).
- ✔ Help ākonga link new words to existing knowledge (simpler synonyms they already know) and give opportunities to reinforce learning with meaningful communication.
- ✔ Develop strategies to understand unfamiliar language (e.g. word families). Point out similarities and differences among words that belong to word families (e.g. define, definitely, definition).
- ✔ Provide opportunities for ākonga to practice using new words to reinforce correct pronunciation and usage.
- ✔ Ask open-ended questions that require ākonga to respond using the new words (e.g. Do you think racism, sexism, or ageism is more prevalent in our society? Why?).

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