**Here are some easy ways to increase reading and vocabulary skills:**

* Read for 20 - 30 minutes 4 days a week.
* After your child finishes ask him/her to summarize what he just read and give you the main idea.
* Have your child tell you three tough words he/she read. He/she has to *show* you the word. Read the sentence it is in out loud and talk about what it means. Show your child how you could tell what it meant or research the word together to find out its meaning. An excellent webpage to use is dictionary.com.

* Talk about words often. When you are listening to the radio or TV pick out good vocabulary words and ask your child if he can tell what that word means. Use the story that the word is in or the sentence that was said to find clues about the meaning.
* Have contests while you are on a long driving trip for who can find the trickiest word on signs or billboards. Discuss what they mean.
* At the end of TV commercials have your child tell you what the commercial was selling and three reasons they want you to buy the product or service.
* When watching a 30 minute show on TV as the commercial starts ask your child to predict what might happen next in the story when the show returns. Make a game out of it. Who can predict most accurately? The winner tells everyone else how they knew that would be then next event. What clues did they use? This builds prediction skills, attending to details, and cause/effect with higher level thinking skills. This will actually help your child’s reading skills tremendously!