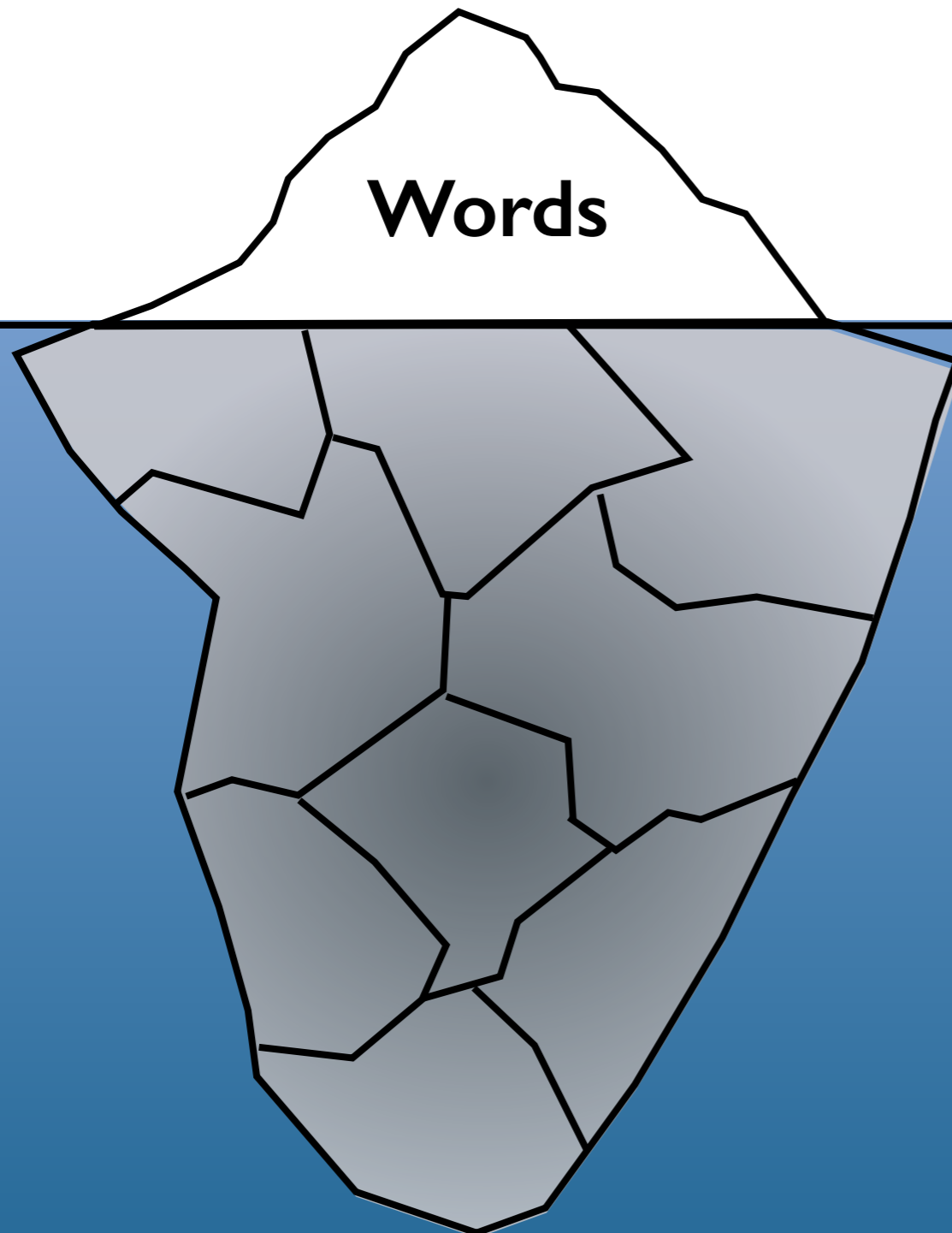


The Word Gap

There are big differences in vocabulary between poor and middle-class children.

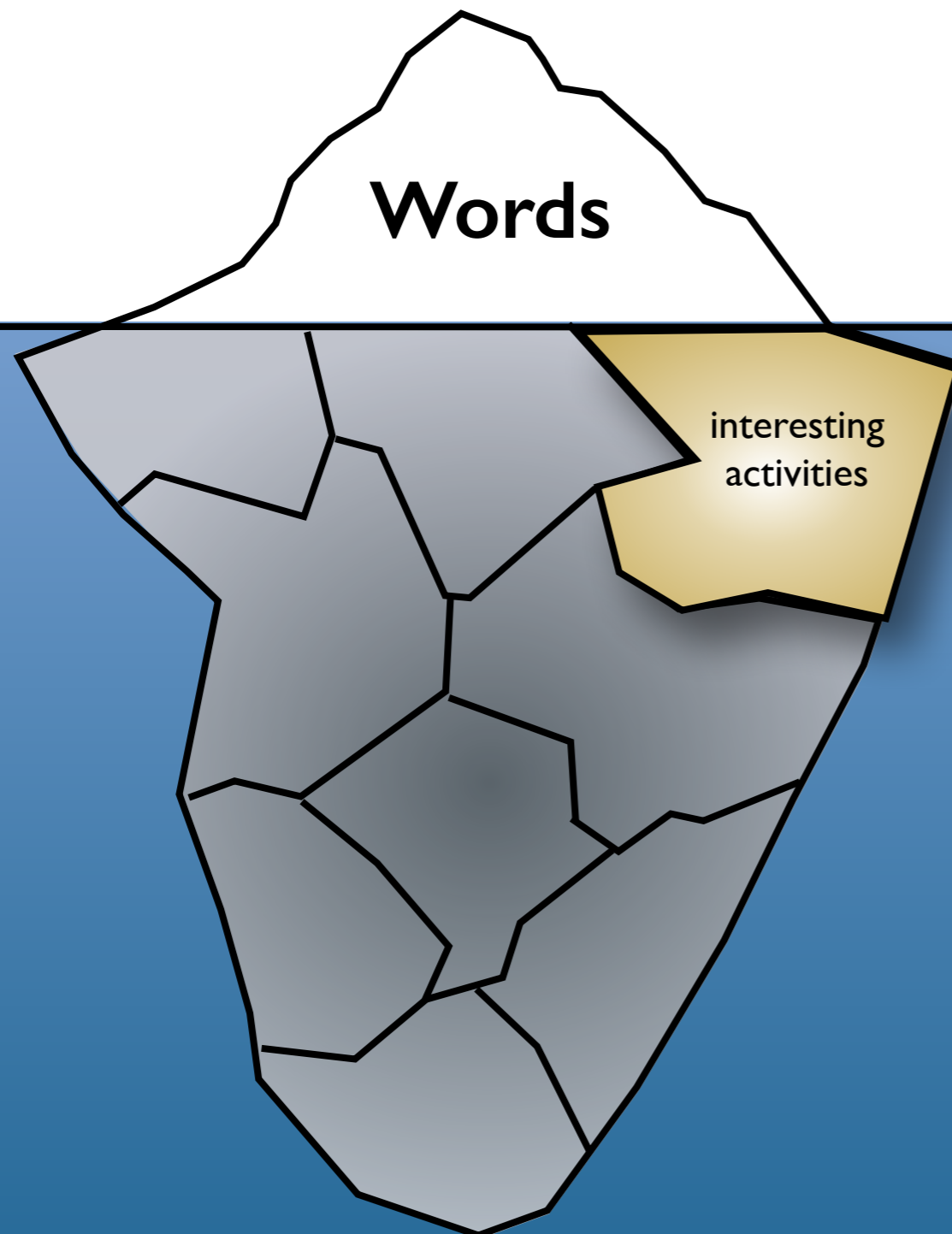
By the time they enter school middle-class children know up to 15,000 more words than their less advantaged peers.

**But... words are just the tip of
the iceberg**



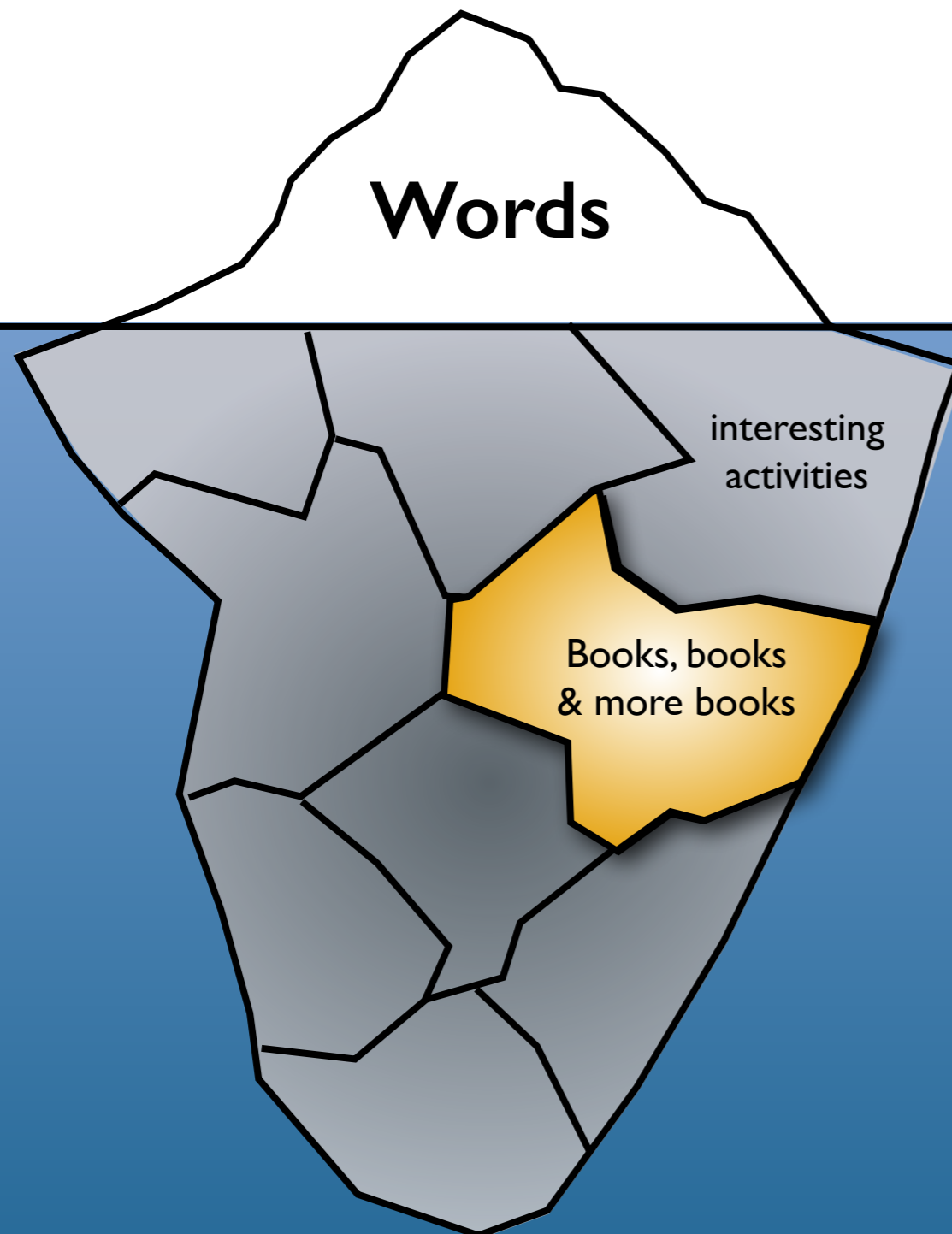
Underneath...

Interesting Activities



Museums, the library, or the zoo are good, but everyday activities - a trip to the market or a bus ride - can also be great opportunities to teach your child new things about the world.

Books, books & more books



Surround your child with reading materials of all kinds with words and ideas you don't use every day — books about animals and how things work, stories, poems, fairy tales, etc.



Words

Read Aloud

When children are read to, they become familiar with the special way that language is used in books, they learn new words, and expand their knowledge.

Words

Storytelling

storytelling

interesting activities

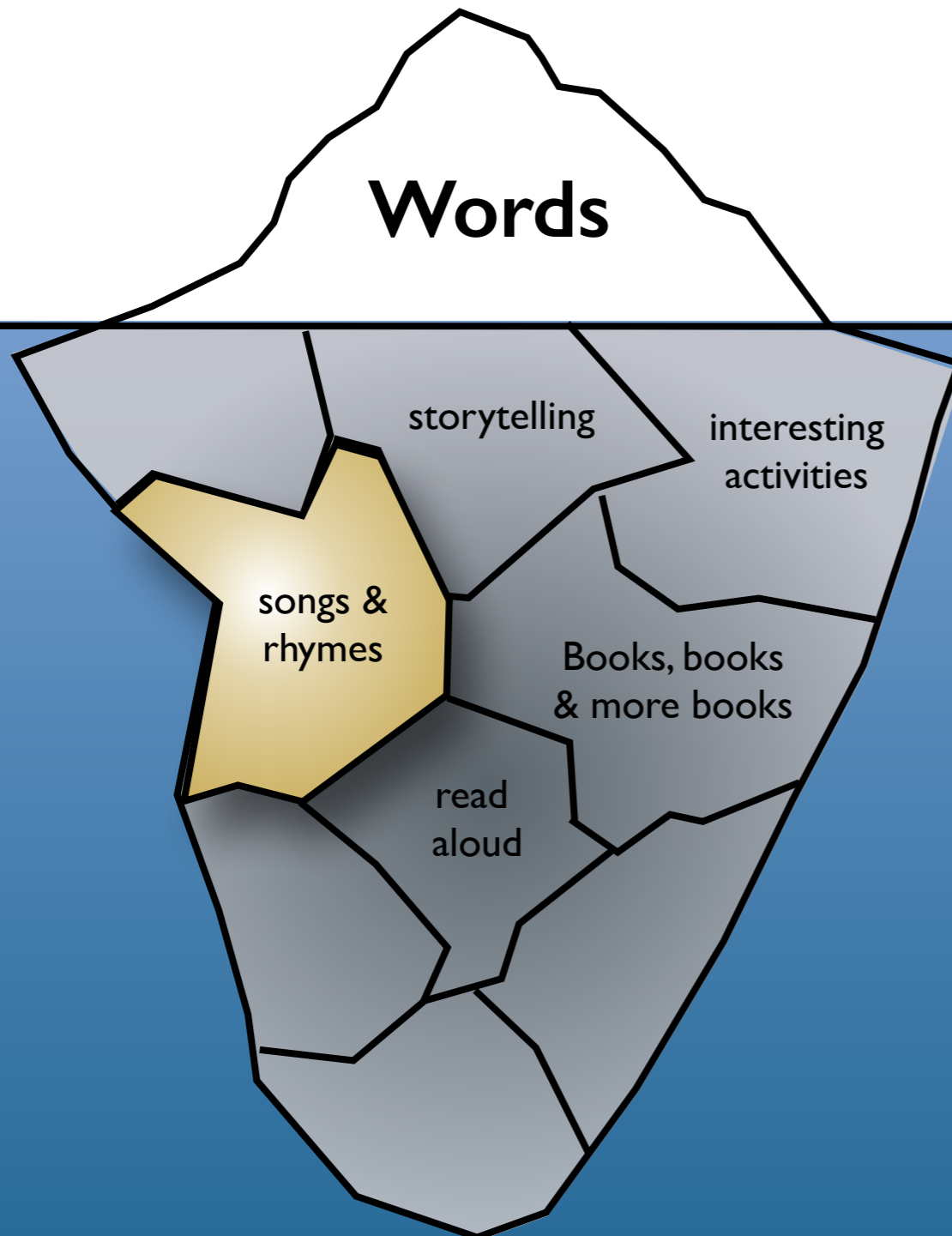
Books, books & more books

read aloud

Stories are a great way to pass on knowledge and ideas — in many cultures it's the main way to teach children about their family and traditions, who they are and where they came from.

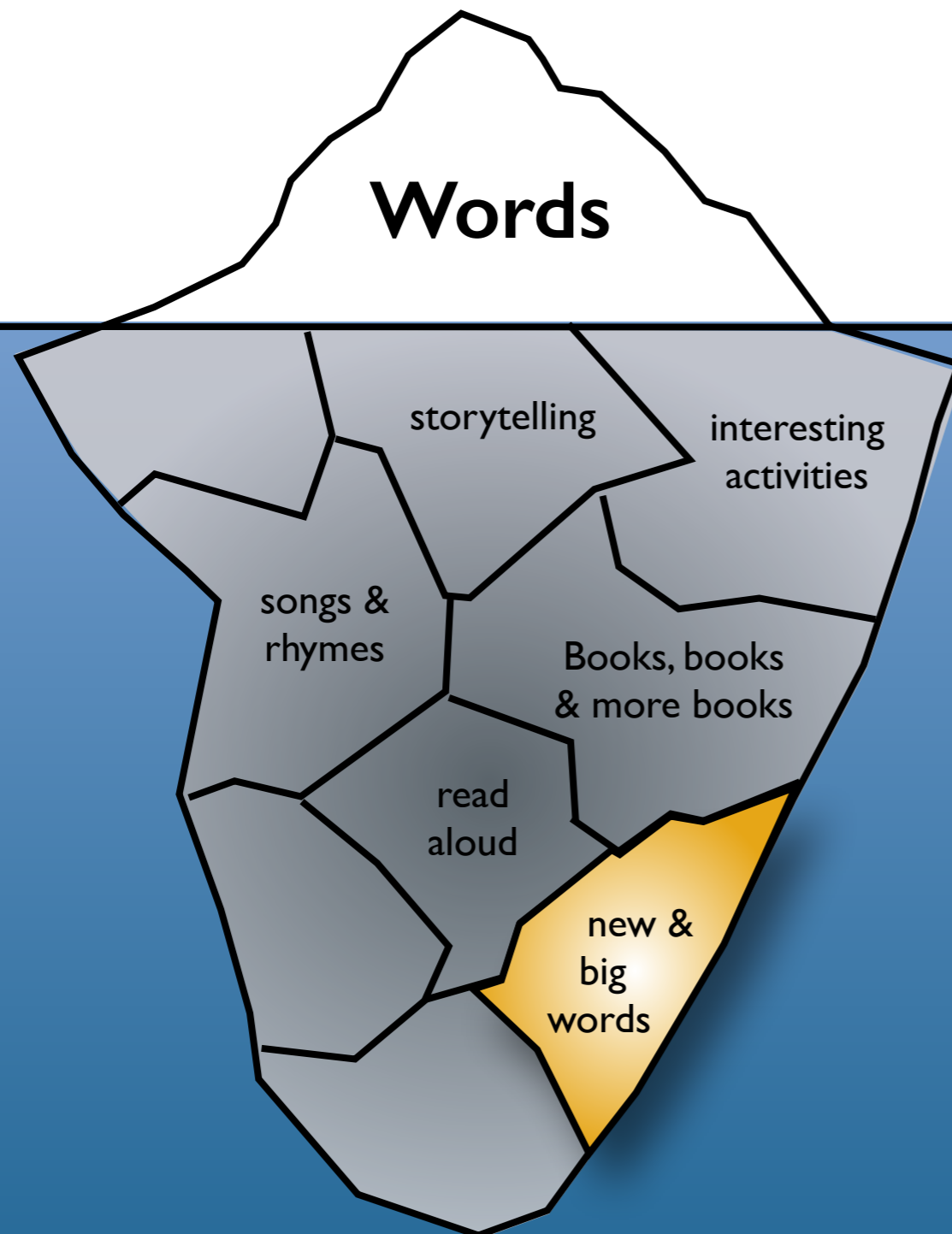
Words

Songs & Rhymes



Songs and rhymes are a great way for children to play and have fun while they learn to hear and recognize the sounds within words.

New & Big Words



Discuss word meanings with children. Show your child how to use new, challenging words, and how these words relate to things they already know.



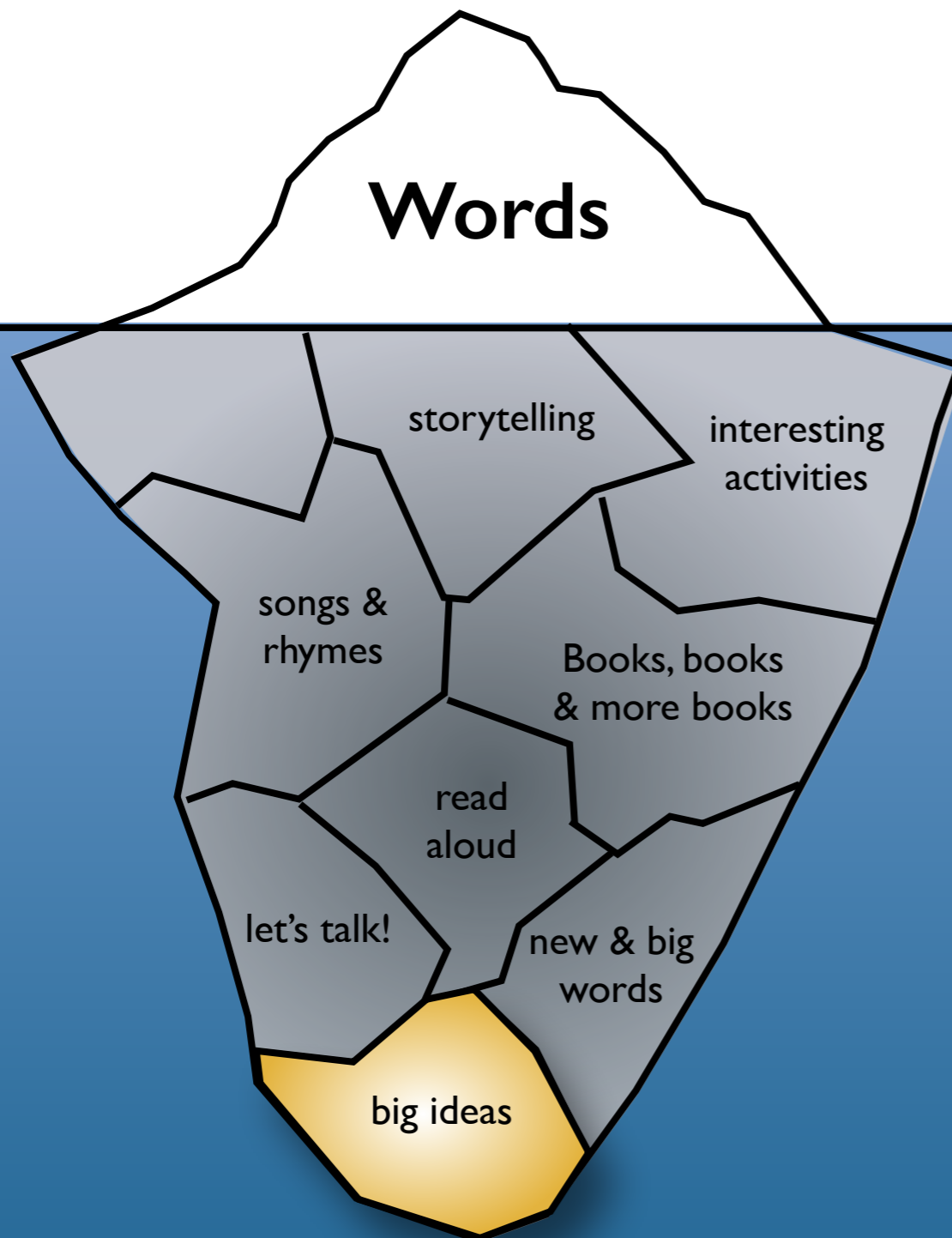
Words

Let's Talk!

Talk with children — but also, listen to them and encourage them to talk back. Ask them questions, check that they understand, focus on the child's thoughts and ideas.

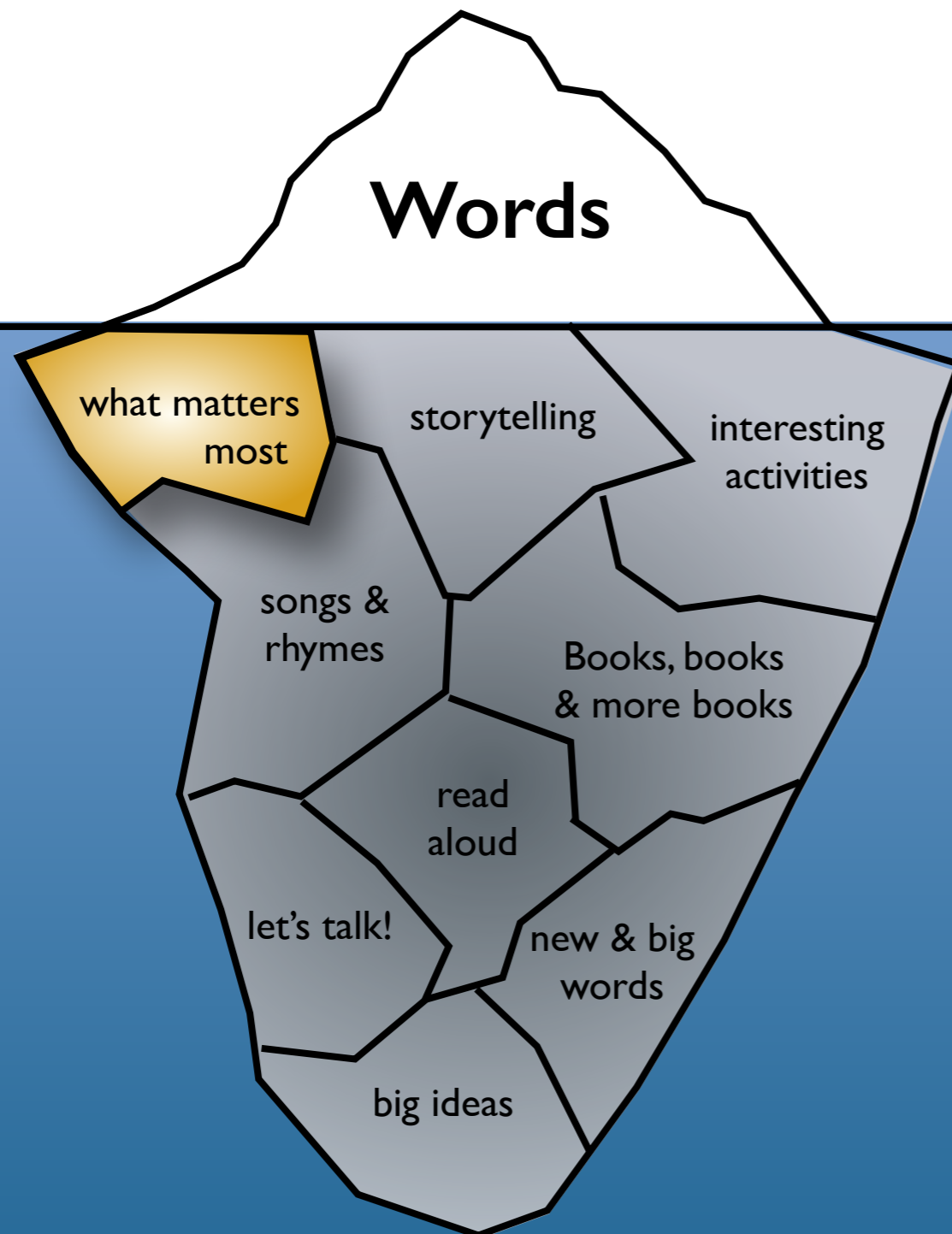
Words

Big Ideas



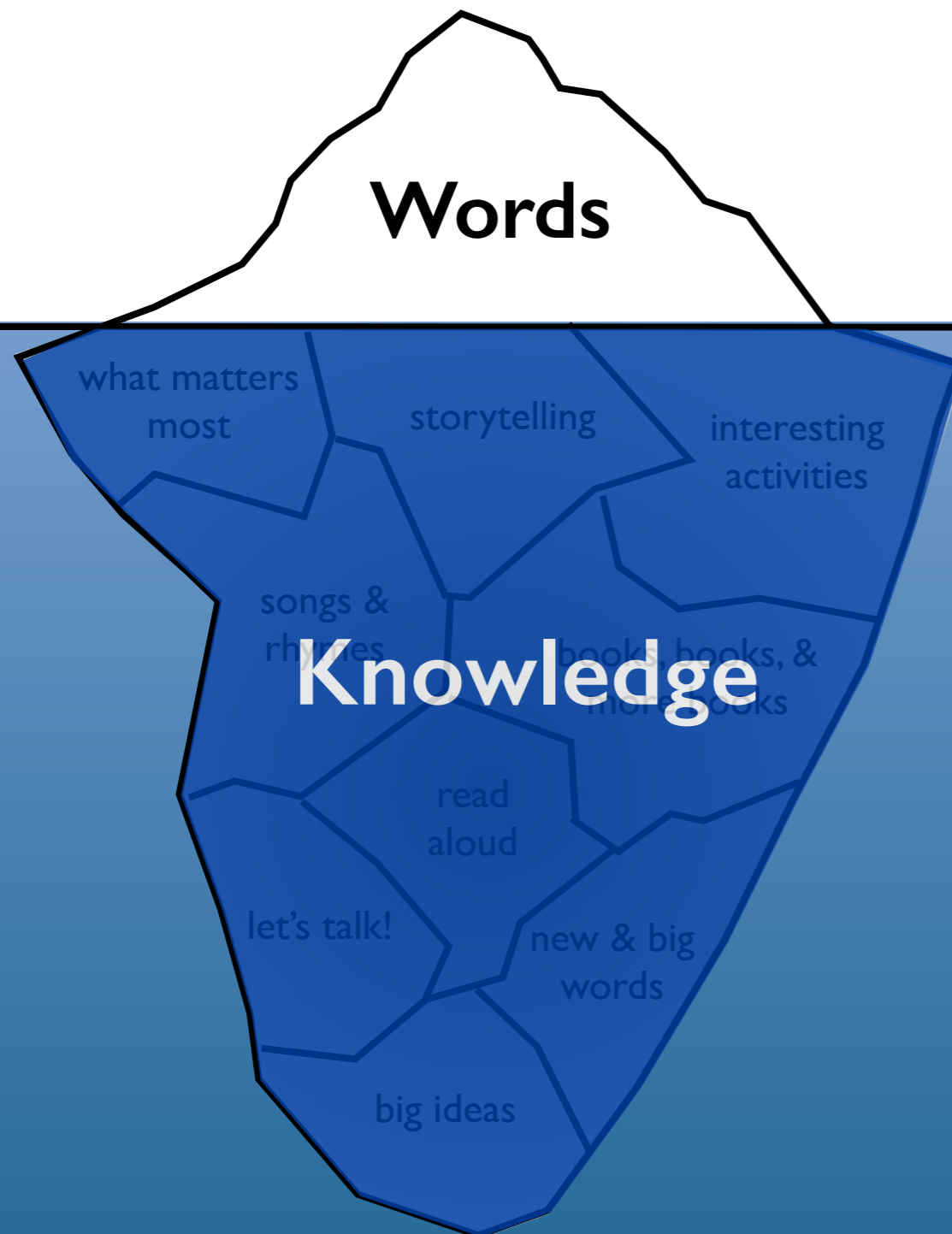
Expose children to important topics in a friendly way. Children love big ideas and are naturally curious and eager to learn. Don't be afraid to challenge them!

What Matters Most



Your young child learns best from you — from personal interactions with family and caregivers — and very little from “educational” television or computer programs. You are the best teacher there is.

The Word Gap is a Gap in Knowledge ... and in Opportunities to Acquire It



Talk *with* your child and increase those learning opportunities;

you will expand your child's knowledge, and build her vocabulary.

You don't have to have money
to give your child a good head start...

...ideas and conversations cost nothing.



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