

CONCEPTS OF PRINT

Print is everywhere -- in books, on signs, on labels, in logos, on the internet, in text messages, etc. Print awareness is knowing about the forms and functions of print. Children with print awareness know how to handle a book, where on a page to begin reading, and the difference between a letter and a word.

Print awareness includes knowing that print is a communication device. Knowing that printed words are symbols for words in spoken language helps children to bridge the gap between oral and written language. Print awareness is a child's earliest introduction to literacy. The following print concepts build from simplest to more complex.

SIMPLE ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE DONE AT HOME TO STRENGTHEN CONCEPTS OF PRINT EVERY TIME YOU READ A STORYBOOK WITH YOUR CHILD

<p>A book has a front cover and a back cover.</p> <p>A book is held right side up.</p>	<p>Let your child handle the picture book when you read together. Let your child turn the book to the front cover. If they don't turn the book to the front, show them differences between the front cover and the back cover.</p> <p>Let your child turn the book right side up. If they don't turn the book right side up, show them both right side up and upside down and talk about the differences.</p>
<p>A book has a title.</p> <p>A book has pages.</p> <p>The left page of a book is read before the right page.</p> <p>Pages are turned and read one at a time in a sequence from front to back.</p>	<p>Point out the title on the cover and read the title aloud.</p> <p>Let your child turn the pages of the book while you read.</p> <p>Always read the left page before reading the right. Point to the text or point to the picture on the left page first and then move to the right.</p> <p>If your child tries to skip pages, talk about how you need to read one page at a time in order. You can't skip pages or read them out of order. If you do, you will be skipping part of the story or the story will not make sense.</p>
<p>Printed words are made up of letters and separated by spaces.</p> <p>Text is read from left to right, and top to bottom, with a return sweep to the next line.</p> <p>Sentences in print are made up of separate words that start with capital letters and end with punctuation marks.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to point under the words, one at a time, as you read the text moving left to right. If your child is not pointing to each word, one at a time, then talk about the space between each word. Model finger hopping, word-to-word, as you read left to right.</p> <p>When you get to the end of a line, model how to do a return sweep by going to the next line and reading again left to right until you get to the bottom of the page.</p> <p>Point out capital letters at the beginning of a sentence and periods, question marks, or exclamation points at the end of the sentence.</p>