

Print Concepts



Understanding what letters, printed words and parts of books are.

What is it?

The basic knowledge and understanding of how printed language works, and how it reflects our spoken language.

When do kids learn it?

Very gradually, between birth and 5 years, children learn about print through their interactions with printed language in their environment, for example, books, signs, labels, etc.

How do I teach it?

Have fun with books and games that include letters and words.

- As they are able, let your child hold a book and turn the pages.
- When reading a book, point out a simple word (e.g., DOG) and then point to a picture of a dog on the page. When they are able, let your child read a word that is familiar to them.
- Pick a word that occurs often on the page of a book. Take turns finding that word. Or find a word that starts with a certain letter, e.g., a “D”.

Find all the words on that page that start with a “D”.

- Play with letters. Some will stick on the side of the bathtub. Others are blocks. Name the letters. Combine them into simple words. Match letters.
- Encourage your child to pretend to write.
- Find simple words in the environment. Look on food labels, toy boxes, magazines.
- Print a word and tape it to an object, for example tape the word “BALL” to your child’s ball. Tape the word “BED” to their bed.



Ask your child's doctor, teacher or librarian for other tips!

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