

Print Awareness

Print Awareness is one of the early literacy skills that researchers say is important for children to have in order to learn to read.

Print Awareness includes knowing that print has meaning, knowing how to handle a book, and noticing print all around.

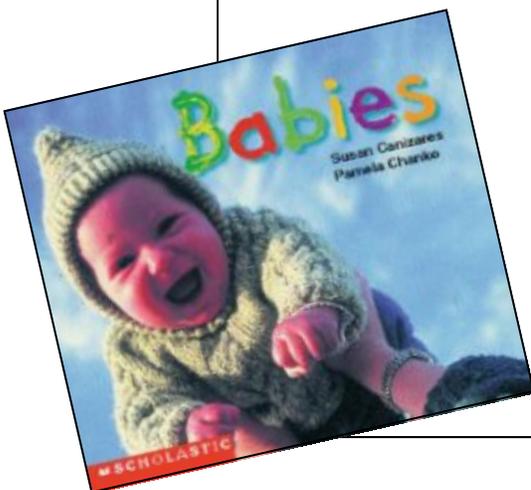
Here are some ways you can develop or strengthen your child's awareness of print...



Babies...

Board Books:

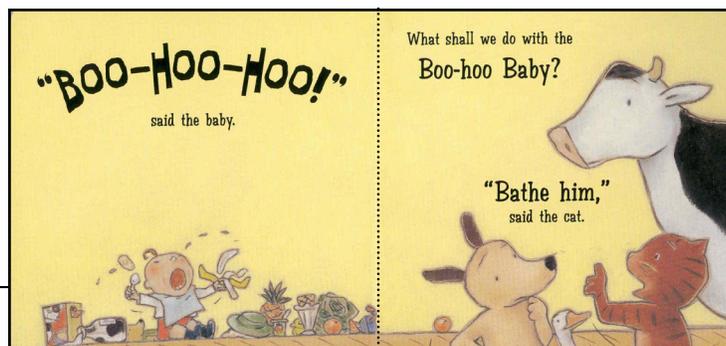
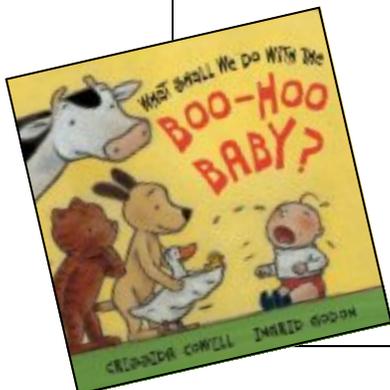
When you read a board book with nice clear pictures, you can point to the picture and show your baby the real thing. For example, point to a picture of a truck in the book, then show your child a toy truck or a real truck. This helps Baby learn that pictures represent things she can see and touch. Later, Baby will learn that print represents words, which represent real things.



Toddlers...

Handling books:

- Turn the book around, so it is backwards, and ask your child if that is the way we read it. Keep turning it around until it is facing the right way.
- From time to time, use your finger to point to the words on the page as you read them.
- Point out print that is in different type, size or color. Use your voice to match the print. Ask your toddler to say the words with you.



Toddlers...

Print all around us...

To help your child understand that words have meaning, try these:

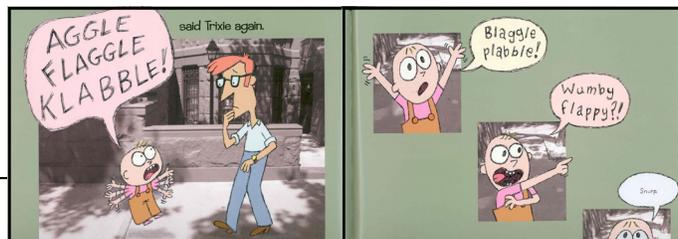
- Find some examples of things in the room that have print on them, and explain to your child what the words are telling you. (The Exit sign means we go out through this door.) Ask your child to find other examples.
- As you are going home point out other examples of print, such as street signs, billboards, restaurant or business signs, etc.



Preschoolers...

Handling books:

- Turn the book upside down and ask your child if that is the way we read it. Keep turning it around until it is facing the right way.
- From time to time, use your finger to point to the words on the page as you read them.
- Point out the author and illustrator of the book.
- Point out print that is in different type, size or color and model how it is read. Ask your child to say the words with you.



Preschoolers...

Print all around us:

To help your child understand that words have meaning, try these:

- Ask your child to find some examples of things in the room that have print on them, then explain what the words are telling you. (The Exit sign means we go out through this door.)
- As you are going home play a game to see how many other examples of print your family can find. (Street signs, billboards, restaurant or business signs, etc.)
What do the words tell us?



School-Age...

Print in books:

- Print that is in different in type, size or color tells us to read the words in a special way. Use these books to help your child find some examples of ways authors use print to give the story “voice.”
- Punctuation marks also tell us how to read with “voice.” Read the next sentences to your child, and point out the different punctuation marks used in each:

What should we do today?

Go to the library.

Go to the library?

Go to the library!



School-Age...

Ways we use print:

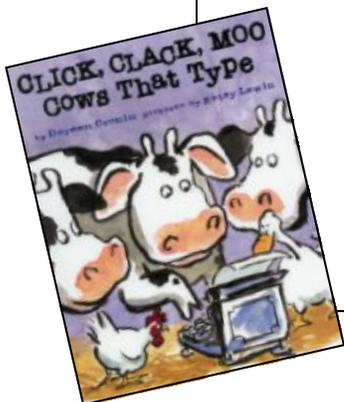
Help your child use the materials provided to write a note to a friend or relative. She can tell you what words to write, she can use “invented” spelling herself, or you can write her words down on a separate sheet of paper for her to copy on the note. The purpose is to have fun!

Creating a writing center at home is easy!
Here are some materials to get started:

Paper, postcards, greeting cards, old envelopes, notepads

Pens, pencils, chalk, markers, crayons, colored pencils

Scissors, tape, glue, stamps and ink pads



Center Instructions...

- Choose a variety of board books and picture books to set out.
 - Include books that use different kinds of print within the text.
 - Include books that have print in the illustrations.
- Set out writing materials, such as:
 - Paper, postcards, greeting cards, old envelopes, notepads
 - Pens, pencils, chalk, markers, crayons, colored pencils
 - Scissors, tape, glue, stamps and ink pads
 - Have an old typewriter? Most kids nowadays have never used one! They'll have a great time typing notes.

