

I Can Read Words

Primary Objectives

17b. Uses print concepts

Why It's Important

Children are surrounded by environmental print. They recognize many logos, candy wrappers, cereal boxes, and store names at an early age. Using familiar and meaningful print will help your child begin to understand that the print (and not the picture) tells the story.

Materials

Collection of environmental print (cereal boxes, wrappers from favorite snacks, local supermarket bags, logos from familiar restaurants, toy labels); small, decorated paper bag with your child's name and *Words I Can Read* written on it

What You Do

1. Invite your child to look through the collection of environmental print and choose an item that contains words that she recognizes. *Does anything here have words you can read on it? Which one?*
2. After your child chooses an item, ask him to read it to you. I see you picked the yellow cereal box. Can you tell me what these words say? As she reads the print, run your finger under the words from left to right. *That's right! This box has the word raisin on it.*
3. Encourage your child to talk about the print. Offer prompts as needed, and listen to what she already knows about print concepts. *Now it's my turn to read the words on the cereal box. Will you help me? Show me where to start reading. Which way do I go from there?*
4. Continue this activity with other print items for as long as your child is interested. Help her fill her *Words I Can Read* bag with examples of environmental print. Trim the labels, boxes, etc. just enough so they will fit into her bag. Encourage her to read the words in her bag to you and to other family members whenever she shows interest.