

## Environmental Print

- How many times have you driven by a McDonald's restaurant with your child in the car and he has shouted "Look! McDonald's!"? Children get excited when they can "read" the print in their environment.
- Environmental Print is another way to build confidence in young children and get them excited about reading. When children are excited about reading and print holds meaning for them they will learn much faster and begin to make connections to the world around them.
- When children use the contextual clues found in Environmental Print to "read" then they will be able to transition into the functional print of school more easily.

## Learning Is Fun!

Learning doesn't have to be tedious!  
Make time to have fun with your child...

- Have fun and cook with your child.  
Read labels and ingredients.
- Play board games with your child.  
Candyland can teach more than just colors.
- Read EVERY night and change your voice to be different characters.
- The best way for your child to enjoy reading is to have you model for them. Your child is your biggest fan and will do what you do!!



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## Kindergarten Reading Tips

Learning to read takes practice.

Loving to read takes enthusiasm!

Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Practice

# Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness in kindergarten is the best single predictor of future reading success.

Phonemic awareness is the ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words. Those individual sounds are called phonemes. You do not need any materials to practice this skill.

- Segmenting sounds- Pulling apart words into sounds. How many sounds are in the word "cat"? How many syllables are in the word "kindergarten"?
- Blending sounds- Putting sounds back together. If you sound out /c/ /a/ /t/, your child should be able to recognize that the word is cat.
- Manipulating sounds- Adding, deleting, and substituting sounds. Practice adding -ing or -ed on the end of words. Ask them to take away sounds...If you take away /t/ in cart, you have car. Change the /c/ in cat to a /p/ and you get pat.
- Rhyming- What color rhymes with burple? Purple! Zoo? Blue! Jell-O? Yellow!

## Phonics

Phonics is knowing the relationship between written letters and spoken sounds. You are asking children to show their phonics knowledge when you ask them which letter makes the first sound in *bat* or *dog* or the last sound in *car* or *cart*.

## Sight Words

Learning sight words helps children become stronger readers and writers. Sight words are words that children will encounter frequently in print as well as use most frequently in their writing. One of our literacy goals is to help children learn to read and write these words automatically.

To aide your child at home you may want to...

- Sit with your child and look at a newspaper to see just how often sight words pop up in print. Highlight & count the word each time it appears.

- Copy sights words on index cards (one word per card). Make a 2nd set of the same words. Scatter one set face up on the floor, leaving about a foot between each card. Place the other set in a stack facedown. Turn over the 1st card and have your child read it then jump on the corresponding word.
- "Write" a sight word on your child's back. Can your child guess the word? Trade places.
- When traveling play "I spy" with billboards, signs, etc. to find sight words.

