



Environmental Print

What is environmental print?

Environmental print is the variety of texts that are part of our world or environment: exit signs, billboards, labels on cans, and boxes of food, words on game boards, and so on. Very early, children are able to identify environmental print and add it to their personal word banks by using such clues as colors, pictures, letter shapes, and word conformation. Environmental print is responsible for early learning of words such as “exit,” “start,” “on,” “off,” “stop,” and “McDonald’s” or “Pizza Hut.”

Things that can be done at home to develop an awareness of environmental print:

- Label lots of things around the home. Involve your child(ren) in the labeling.
- Help your child(ren) start scrapbooks of favorite words. One scrapbook can be pages filled with labels from favorite food packages. One scrapbook can be pages filled with headlines about favorite sports team or player.
- Play identification games to call attention to the great variety of environmental print. Who will be the first one to see the word “exit?” to see “stop” “sale?”
- Take a newspaper article and a bright marker. Have your child(ren) circle all the words or letters they know. Or you can write or cut out one word (“sale,” for example), place it in front of them, and have them circle the word each time they find that word in the article.

This list of suggested activities is short and designed only as a springboard for your own ideas. Begin with an activity you can do easily and comfortably with your child(ren). Then add those activities that work especially well for you and your child(ren). Resource: [Parent's Guide to Literacy](#). Hydrick



IDEAS TO HELP YOUR READER

- New reading material must be in the home at all times. (magazines, papers, library books, book club books)
- Reading materials should be placed in the bathroom too.
- A light that can be attached to the bed is a must.
- Discussions about what everyone in the family is reading should be done regularly. (Connections should be made when possible.)
- There are many new and old books that you may have missed along the way. Now is your chance to enjoy them.
- Talk about what you do when you come to an unknown word. Do you really think that you only “sound it out?” (You might want to give that some thought.) What do you do when you realize that you can’t remember what you read? What happened? Share this.
- Talk about things that you have recently learned. Explain how you go about learning new things.
- Encourage writing stories at home and celebrate them. Have writing and illustrating materials available.
- Slip notes to your child(ren) encouraging them and telling them how proud you are of them. (Be specific.)
- Do a family research project on an interest area (family, trips, new pets, new purchases, etc.).
- Encourage help from your child(ren) when preparing your shopping list.
- Storytellers-libraries and bookstores sometimes schedule them.
- Read daily with your child. (Fifteen minutes can be very effective.)