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<http://leatherbarrow.nbed.nb.ca>

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Why Use Environmental Print?

It surrounds children. This print is “embedded” in their world. It provides meaningful literacy experiences with reading material that is familiar to them. As a result, children feel successful reading environmental print. Children begin to see themselves as readers and writers and want to read and write more. The easiest of 10 skills is pointing to environmental print. Next, matching identical environmental print although they may not be able to read it yet. Third, identifying (reading) environmental print without assistance. The next skill would be naming individual letters. Copying print is the fifth skill. Matching environmental print when it is separated from its familiar context. Classifying environmental print by category (food items, signs, toys, etc.) is the seventh skill. Writing down the stories that children tell contributes to their ability to read. Including environmental print logos or labels allows your child to read along with you. Classifying environmental print by the beginning sound and by syllables are the last two skills. Beginning sounds and syllables will be discussed in future editions of teacher tips.

Teacher Tips

Weekly Work

Environmental Print is the print we see all around us. It is the print on everyday products we use, on street signs and on logos. It is the print we recognize because of its shape, pictures and colours. Below are some ideas related to learning increasingly complex literacy skills using environmental print.

Poster: Use a large piece of paper and have a variety of environmental print available for your child to select. Have your child glue different pieces of environmental print on the piece of paper. Level 1: Ask your child to point to specific products on their poster. Level 2: Have your child match an identical piece of environmental print to one on their poster. Level 3: Have your child read the environmental print. Level 4: Have your child name individual letters or locate the letters of their name in the letters of the environmental print. Level 5: Have your child trace over the letters or copy the print in pudding, shaving cream or with paper and markers (please reinforce proper letter formation). Level 6: Write the name for each environmental print on a separate piece of paper. Have your child match your writing with the correct environmental print on their poster. Level 7: Play “One of these things is not like the others” Place 4 pieces of environmental print in front of your child. Three of the pieces should have something in common and one will not belong. For example, display 3 cereal labels and one soup label. Have your child explain why that product is different and does not belong. Level 8: Dictate Stories. Write a sentence such as, “(Your child’s name) likes to eat ____.” Have a variety of environmental print options for them to use to fill in the blank. Re-read the sentence with your child, pointing under each word and sliding your finger along to help with word awareness.

Environmental Print Walk Book: Go for a walk down Main Street with your digital camera or phone. Take pictures of environmental print. Include things like street signs, traffic signs, neighbourhood stores, and fast food signs. Place the photos in a small album. Make a title page and enjoy reading about your walk.

Environmental Print Alphabet Album: Use a photo album or make a booklet. Begin to collect environmental print pieces for each letter of the alphabet. (Level 4)

Connections

This week’s edition of Teacher Tips highlights outcomes for Reading and Writing. Appropriate Achievement means the child is able to...

5.1 With assistance, interact with a variety of simple texts by using non-fiction resources: newspapers, magazines, pictures, sign, and labels

10.2 Begin to spell some words conventionally by using ABC charts, word walls and other environmental words with support.

B.I.B. Friday | Can Read! Book

Help your child collect a few pieces of environmental print. Choose from flyers, napkins, food labels and/or logos from packages. If you wish, feel free to use the printable ones on the school webpage by selecting kindergarten from the drop down menu under “class websites”. Click on “Teacher Tips” and select “I can read environmental print”. Have your child cut their selections to size, glue/tape them into the book (one per page) and practice reading to you. They will read their book to a peer on Friday.