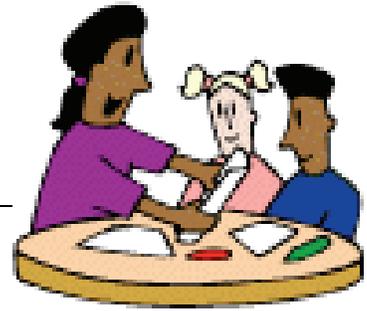


# Print Awareness Activities

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## Understanding the functions, structure and conventions of written language.



### *Ways to develop **print awareness**:*

- Label classroom materials with pictures and words.
- Display and use a child focused daily schedule.
- Display task sequencing signs.
- Use environmental print to make books, games and activities; see [Environmental Print Game](#).
- Talk about how a book works by pointing out the cover, back, title, authors, illustrators, and familiar words or names, during read-aloud sessions.
- Teach page arrangement and directionality of print with repeated readings and modeling with big books.
- Model and demonstrate the form and function of writing and print such as the concepts that words can be spoken or written, print corresponds to speech, and print carries a message. Writing a thank you note with the children to a classroom visitor is an example of how these concepts can be taught.
- Take dictation from children. Write their words exactly as they say them while they watch you form the letters.
- Model reading and writing as a way to investigate theories.
- Provide a classroom full of print that is varied and demonstrates the practical uses of written language. Direct their attention to the print in their environment.
- Promote literacy-based play activities such as setting up a restaurant in the dramatic play area where children can take orders for food and “record” them on a pad; see [Note Pads](#).
- Provide non-English materials whenever possible in order to support a child’s first language while they learn to speak English.

*Considerations for children with **special needs**:*

- Give children opportunities to explore “writing “ on the computer keyboard by using an adapted keyboard and putting the font on 72.
- Be sure children have access to adapted writing tools in every center.
- Have children “be a word” in a sentence by giving them an index card with one word in a sentence. Let them stand with other children to make a sentence.
- Use a book on the computer with switches to turn the page. Have one of the pages appear upside down!

**PRINT AWARENESS RESOURCES**