

Print and Book Knowledge

Source: http://www.uth.tmc.edu/circle/print_book.htm

What is Print Knowledge?

Print knowledge includes several areas of understandings. These are:

- *Knowledge of the Alphabet*

Alphabetic knowledge is more than knowing the names of the letters.

Alphabetic knowledge includes:

- *being able to distinguish the features of each letter that make it different from all the other letters*
- *saying the name of the letter*
- *saying a word that begins with that letter*
- *saying a sound the letter can represent*

It is the understanding that letters have sounds which can be associated with them and that there is some relationship between the sequence of letters seen in print and the sound sequence heard.

- *Concepts about Print*

Concepts about print are the rules required to record oral language into a written language.

- *The Function of Print*

Understanding that print has meaning and the function of either telling a story or conveying information such as directions is the final area of understanding about print children need.

Why is print knowledge important?

- *Research shows alphabet (letter) knowledge is an important key predictor of success in early reading.*
- *Understanding the concepts about print help children know where to direct their attention during story time and writing activities.*
- *Understanding the function of print helps children attach meaning to the writing activities they are participating in.*
- *Understanding the function of letters in writing and learning specific letter sound associations is critical.*

Labels for materials

- *include the word with an icon (picture, photo, drawing)*
- *are color-coded for younger children*
- *are placed on shelves, cubbies, as well as the container for the items*
- *define a classroom's organization and storage system*
- *help children learn to associate
pictures and written words with physical objects*
- *provide meaningful print in the environment*

Examples of Meaningful Print

- *Class made books*
- *Rebus charts*
- *KWL chart*
- *Environmental print*
- *Helper chart*
- *Center signs*
- *Attendance charts*