



A kindergarten parent's guide to...

Concepts of Print

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What are concepts of print?

Concepts of print are early literacy skills – pre-reading skills. Children of all ages – even infants – can develop concepts of print. Children develop concepts of print through shared reading with adults on a regular basis. Concepts of print include:

Book Handling

Print Awareness

Story Elements

What can I do to help my child develop concepts of print?

Step 1 – READ, READ, READ! Anytime you spend reading to your child, he/she is developing concepts of print. However, here are some simple ways you can incorporate concepts of print skills into your reading.

Book Handling

- Point out parts of the book (front & back cover, spine, title and author on cover, title page, etc.)
 - Model and discuss proper care for books (holding, turning pages, etc.)
- Read your child's favorite books over and over again – he/she will develop love and ownership!

Print Awareness

- Model and discuss where you should *start* reading and where to go (left to right & top to bottom)
- Point to the words as you read – and later, have your child track the words with his/her finger
 - Count words on a page or letters in a word
- Point out and discuss print elements (spaces, capital letters, punctuation, font changes, etc.)
 - Have your child point to and name letters or words he/she knows

Story Elements

- Discuss if the book is fiction or non-fiction – and discuss how you know
- Fiction books – discuss the characters, setting, plot, sequence of events, problem and solution
- Non-fiction books – discuss the table of contents, page numbers, headings, main idea, captions, etc.
 - Once your child is familiar with a book, ask him/her to re-tell events from the story

Remember... the most valuable time you can spend with your child is reading EVERYDAY!
Read fiction & non-fiction... the newspaper... magazines... the mail... anything!