



Print Awareness Continuum

Print awareness is beginning knowledge about written language. Becoming familiar with print, what it looks like and how it works, are necessary skills in learning to read. The print awareness continuum video shows us these stages:

Print is different from pictures

A toddler, Samantha, points to the picture and then the words in the book.

Print has meaning

Preschoolers in this video “read” environmental print (labels from familiar products). Children also demonstrate their awareness that print has meaning when they ask, “What does that say?”

Print has practical uses

Through play preschool children can learn that print has various functions. Print can be used to write a letter, a list, a menu, a recipe or a book. In our example, Heather is making a shopping list.

Print is organized

A preschooler points to the words on the page and talks with the teacher about what she observes about the print. Many experiences with print help children learn how print is organized. They see that *words are separated by spaces* and that, in English, the words are read from *left to right* and *top to bottom*.

Words are made up of letters

In the video, kindergarten children spell a child’s name, calling out each letter in her name. Also, preschool children who have opportunities to write begin to demonstrate the knowledge that words are made up of letters.

Capitalization

As the teacher writes a recipe for “Apple Pie” on chart paper, a child comments on the fact the “p’s” go below the line. The teacher comments on the capital “P” in pie.

Punctuation

A preschool child comments on the question mark at the end of every page in the polar bear story.