



Literacy Grab & Go Preschool (3 - 4-year-olds)

Activity Title: Words Scavenger Hunt

Domain: Literacy

Activity Purpose: Use the print that's around you in everyday life on signs, food labels, clothing, etc., to build your child's recognition of letters and sounds and practice reading.

Rationale

Another name for the print of everyday life is *environmental print*. Many children read environmental print as part of their first efforts to read.

Materials: none

Description of Activity:

1. To play, first choose a letter. Say the letter and the sound it makes. For example, "Let's choose the letter M that makes the /mmmmmm/ sound."
2. Tell your child to be on the lookout for words they see that begin with the letter M. If you're at home, they may point to the labels on "milk" or "marshmallows." Newspapers, magazines, and mail can be great sources for new words. If you're out and about, your child might see a sign for a "mechanic" or "McDonalds." Don't worry if there are times when your child finds a word, but doesn't know how to read it. Once they tell you the beginning sound, you can fill in the rest.
3. If convenient, help your child cut out the labels and words, and/or take pictures of environmental print you find.
4. You can glue or create a collection of words and pictures on pieces of paper to make an ABC word book that your child can read over and over.

Lagniappe:

This type of literacy practice can be done anywhere. The more places you look for words and sounds, the more you are helping your child understand that words and reading opportunities are all around them.

Give your child a card with a letter written on it. Tell them the letter name and the sound it makes. Next, have them match that letter to the same letter in a piece of environmental print such as newspapers, magazines, or mail. Focus on letters in the child's name first.