

Today's News

Primary Objectives

17b. Uses print concepts

Why It's Important

Children learn to understand written words when the context is interesting or familiar to them. Writing down and discussing a plan for the day will help your child think about what types of things she wants to do and accomplish.

Materials

Large piece of paper; markers

What You Do

1. Talk with your child about some of the things you are planning to do the next day. You can discuss what kinds of chores you will be doing, what errands you will run, which books you will read together, what you will have for dinner, etc.
2. The next day, explain that you are going to make a newspaper to read with your child. Write "Today's News" at the top of a large piece of paper. Underneath the heading, write what will happen that day. *Today at lunch time we will have tuna salad. Before bed we will read Goldilocks and the Three Bears.*
3. When you are finished writing, encourage your child to read the "news" with you. Encourage her to follow along by moving her hand under the words as you read. It says, *"Today, at story time we will read...."*
4. Listen to the comments your child makes about the news. Talk about familiar features of the print. Comment on her observations. *Yes, we stop reading when we get to the period. The next word starts with an uppercase letter. That's the beginning of the next sentence.*
5. After reading the news together, invite your child to choose what she would like to do first or which book she would like to read. Encourage her to point out her choice on the paper.
6. At the end of the day, invite her to go back to the newspaper and see which things she did that day. Before she goes to bed, talk about what will be in tomorrow's newspaper.