

Foamy Fun

Primary Objectives

17b. Uses print concepts

Why It's Important

Young children need to learn how to integrate many different skills in order to read. This activity will build on your child's developing knowledge about how printed language works by reinforcing the idea of moving from left to right and from top to bottom.

Materials

Drops of food coloring; shaving cream; table top or plastic tray

What You Do

1. Invite your child to join you at the table after she has spent time looking at books. Ask her to tell you about the book she was looking at. *I noticed that you were looking at a book about steam shovels today. What did you like about the book?*
2. Next, spray some shaving cream on the tray or table. Invite your child to explore the shaving cream with her hands. Ask questions that prompt her to describe how it feels. *What do you notice about the shaving cream? What does it feel like?*
3. Explain that you will show her and give her directions to follow for writing in the shaving cream. Tell her that she will move his fingers in the shaving cream the same way you move your eyes on the page of a book when you read.
4. Direct her attention to the moves you make, saying them aloud as you go. *Let's make a line from top to bottom. Now move across from left to right. When we read, we move our eyes from the top of the page to the bottom, one line at a time. We begin each line at the left and move to the right.*
5. Draw short lines and long lines to represent short and long words. Encourage your child to practice writing any familiar letters, if interested.
6. Continue the activity for as long as your child is interested. You can change the shaving cream by adding food coloring.