

Concepts Of Print

Knowing concepts of print is necessary to learn to read and write.

Concepts of print must be explicitly taught. It doesn't just happen. Awareness of print allows children to move into reading and writing with greater success.

Competent readers and writers can identify:

- the front and back of the book
- the title
- where to begin reading (left to right, top to bottom) and where to go next

Competent readers and writers know:

- the difference between letters and words
- how to match the spoken word to print
- how to identify upper and lower case letters
- the meaning of periods, question marks, quotation marks, exclamation marks, and commas

After modeling, the teacher directs the children to:

- ✓ use magnetic letters to demonstrate words or letters in and out of context.
- ✓ frame words and letters within text.
- ✓ find the first/last letters in a word.
- ✓ find the first/last word in text.
- ✓ clap the number of words/syllables.
- ✓ count the words/spaces/letters in text.
- ✓ find a capital/lower case letter.
- ✓ find and use punctuation in text through intonation.
- ✓ arrange words cut from a sentence.

Intervention activities must be ongoing with readers and writers. It is important to use a variety of printed materials that can be easily seen; such as, big books, charts and pocket charts, to teach concepts of print. Student names, environmental print and teacher created materials should be used in small, individual and large groups.

