A 6 by 6 early literacy skill

Notice Print all around you

Six skills by six years

Kansas State Library
Notice Print all around you

Noticing that print in the environment is meaningful and knowing how to handle a book doesn’t just happen. Children need many experiences handling books in their everyday world to understand that print is used in multiple ways for a variety of purposes. This is referred to as print awareness, and is different from knowing about letters. It includes knowledge about how a book works.

Try these activities with your child . . .

- Look at the picture on the front of this card and help your child find the signs in the picture.

- Use puzzles that have pictures and letters or words.

- Point out that a book has an author and an illustrator.

- Let children help you make a shopping list. Match the words on your list to those on the products.

- As you write, tell your children what you’re doing.

- Let children help read recipes as you cook or bake. Let them make a picture recipe.

- Identify print on t-shirts, boxes and signs.

- Hand a book to your child upside down, and see if she turns it around.

- When using a menu at a restaurant, show them what you’re ordering. When they get home, give them a pad of paper and let them pretend to be a server, taking and filling orders.

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.