

Suggestions from the Parent and Community Resource Coalition

Lakewood Memorial Library

Concepts about Print

What is it?

To learn to read, young children need to figure out how print works. They need to learn about the parts of written language—lines, sentences, words, letters. Understanding these concepts about print sets the stage for reading success.

To help your child learn about these concepts, start with an easy familiar text. You could use a favorite book or a nursery rhyme. Then ask some of the questions below. To begin, you might want to use an “I, we, you” format. First answer the question yourself, pointing as needed. Then invite your child to answer the question with you. Finally, ask your child to answer the question independently. Use short, 5-minute sessions and continue until you see your child has mastered the concepts. Make it like a game. Have fun!

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Where’s the title? How many words are in the title? Where’s the first word in the title? Where’s the last word? How many words are in the title?

Where’s the first word [on a page or line in a poem]? Where’s the last word? How many words are in the first line? How many words are in the last line?

Where does the first [sentence or line] begin? Where does it end? How many [sentences or lines] are in our text?

Look at this [sentence or line]. Can you find the letter [select one]? Are there more [letter]s? Can you find a capital [letter]? A lowercase [letter]?

Look at this word [select one]. What letter does it start with? What letter does it end with? How many letters are in [the word]?

Have Questions?

Contact us at the library [phone number and email addy].