



I Can Read!



Helping Hands Tip Sheet



Did You Know?

Letters and symbols are all around us. From a very early age, children learn that symbols represent important things.

Did You Know?

Reading involves more than recognizing letters and numbers in print.

Children need to know the names of objects and to be able to identify the object when they hear its name.

Children learn which symbols and what forms of print are important by watching the adults around them use printed materials.

Research Tells Us:

- The more words children know the better reader they will become.
- Environmental print activities are a fun and easy way to support early literacy.
- Reading the same stories and singing the same songs over and over supports early reading.

Naming Objects

Children of all ages learn when staff use meaningful sentences in back and forth conversations with children. Be sure to include the names of objects when talking with children.

Writing the names of familiar objects on an index card and attaching the card to the object helps children begin to recognize letters and group them into words. Using the child's first language is important. Try using one color for each language (i.e., all Chinese words are written in green, all Urdu words are written in yellow, etc.).

Very young children respond to photos of familiar people and objects. Use photos or drawings instead of letters when labeling for children under the age of 3.

The Most Important Letters

The most important letters to a child are the letters in his or her name. Offer meaningful ways for children to learn the letters in their name. Think about hanging a white board in the classroom and have the children "sign in" as they come to circle time. Accept their attempts at writing. If children ask for help, offer a laminated card with their name written on it that they can keep in their cubby for reference.

Using what is available

An easy and inexpensive way to introduce reading readiness to children is by using environmental print.

Children recognize familiar logos to stores, restaurants and food items at an early age.

Collect labels, advertisements and magazine pictures of familiar objects, place them in clear sheet protectors in binders, and you have a new book that the children can read. Infants will "read" this book if you choose familiar pictures.