

# Look for Print All Around You

One simple way to prepare children for reading and writing is to help them notice the print that's all around them. By pointing out print in the environment, you help children understand that written words communicate meaning – just like spoken words do. Try these fun ways to highlight print throughout the day:

## Play Time

When playing store, make price tags together. If the child says the eggs cost five dollars, you could say, "Let's make a price tag so that our customers know how much to pay." Write the price down, or help the child to write it themselves. Then, read it while pointing to the words – e.g., "This says, 'Eggs: \$5.'"



## Daily Activities

While making a grocery list, ask the child what they think you should buy. If they say, "Let's get cookies!", you could say, "Great idea! I'll write the word *cookies* so we don't forget. See? This word says cookies." At the store, look for the item together and cross it off the list once you find it.

## On the Go

When waiting for public transit, show the child that print can tell them how long it will be until the next bus or train. If the child says, "How much longer?", you could say, "That sign says, 'Next train: three minutes!'" You could also show them the wait time in an app (like Google Maps) if there isn't a sign nearby.



## Book Reading

When sharing a book together, run your finger underneath the words in the title as you read it. If you are reading a Franklin the Turtle book, for example, you could say, "The title of the story (as you point to it) is *Franklin in the Dark*. Maybe Franklin is this turtle's name!"

## Notes