

*Concepts of Print: The Oft Assumed
and Seldom Taught Key to Early
Reading Growth*

Concepts of
Print is . . .



Concepts of Print



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Print is . . .

What is Print Awareness?

- An awareness of print in the everyday environment.
- An emerging understanding of the concepts about how printed language works.

Concepts of Print

Concepts of
Print is . . .

- General knowledge of print and book concepts
- Enhanced as children participate in teacher read-alouds and other literacy-related activities



Print Concepts

Include
Include
Knowing ...
knowing ...

- That print is read from left to right
- What a letter is
- What a word is
- What a sentence is
- That there are spaces between words
- The function of capital letters and punctuation marks
- That oral language can be written and then read



Print Concepts Progress Monitoring

Selected Print Concepts

- Front of the Book
- Knows that print contains the author's message
- Knows where to start reading
- Knows which way to go when reading
- Return sweep to the left
- Word by word matching
- First and last concept
- Bottom of the picture
- Left page before right
- Notices one change in word order
- Notices one change in letter order
- Knows the meaning of the question mark (?)
- Knows the meaning of the period (.)
- Knows the meaning of the comma (,)
- Knows the meaning of quotation marks (“ ”)
- Can identify the first and last letter of a word
- Can identify one letter and two letters
- Can identify capital letters

Taken from Teaching Children to Read. Reutzel, Ray and Cooter, Robert B. Prentice Hall, 2004. Used and adapted with Permission.

Instructional Strategies for Developing Children's Concepts About Print

Where does print awareness instruction fit in early reading instruction?

- Print awareness should be fostered in pre-school, kindergarten, and first-grade. It should be taught in connection with oral language, vocabulary, reading aloud, phonemic awareness, and learning letters.



Grouping for Instruction

Teach print and book concepts with the whole class, in small groups, or one-on-one, depending on children's abilities and needs.



Book Knowledge Instruction

Model how to read and handle books.

Discuss parts of books.

Teach concepts of print.



Shared Reading Experience

During shared reading, the teacher can point out concepts of books (i.e., front cover, author and illustrator, top and bottom of page, etc.).

Finger pointing at text during shared reading reinforces the concept of word and word boundaries as well as directionality.



Language Experience Approach (LEA)

LEA allows children to experience vicariously, through the teacher, how print works.

1. Have the children participate in a shared experience such as a field trip.
2. Following the experience, have the children dictate text to describe their experience.
3. During dictation, read aloud the text to help students monitor the flow of their oral language. Encourage students to provide details in their dictations.
4. Re-read the text and point out print concepts in the story.

Instructional Strategies for Developing Children's Concepts About Print

What is the developmental sequence of difficulty among print awareness tasks?

- Print Not Picture
 - Front of Book
- Knows Where to Begin Reading Print
 - Directionality
- Voice-Print Matching (Concept of Word)
 - Concept of Letter
 - Concept of First and Last
- Lower Case & Upper Case Letters
 - Reversible Words
- Does the print look right ?
 - Punctuation



Instructional Strategies for Developing Children's Concepts About Print

What are some good techniques for teaching print awareness?

- Environmental Print



Instructional Strategies for Developing Children's Concepts About Print

Highlighting

- **Highlighting Tape**
- **Wikki Sticks**
- **Verbal Punctuation**



Instructional Strategies for Developing Children's Concepts About Print

Matching

- Word Cards
- Letter Cards
- Pictures/Letter Sounds
- Sentence Strips



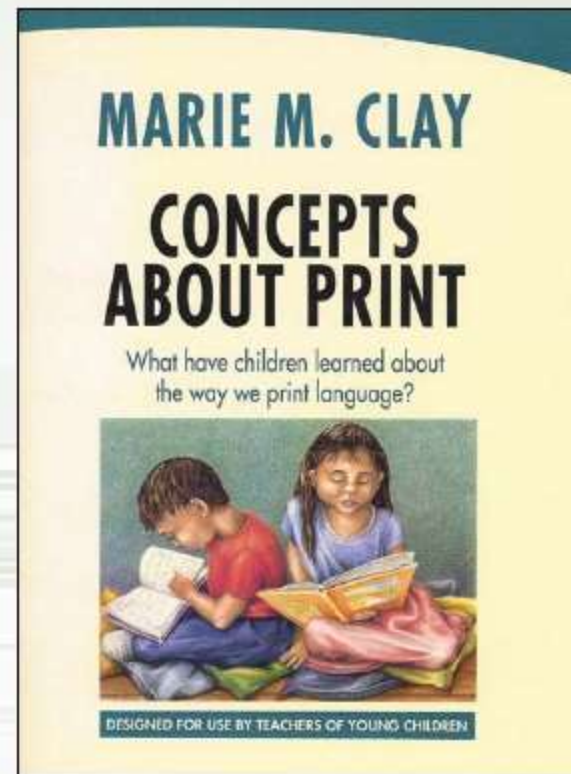
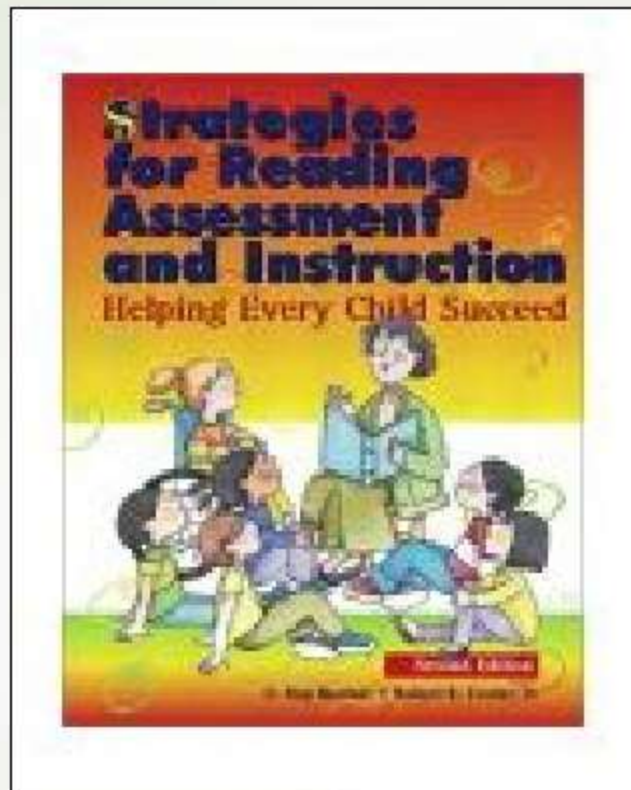
Instructional Strategies for Developing Children's Concepts About Print

What are some necessary tools for teaching print awareness?

- Enlarged Print
- Post It Notes
- Highlighting Tape
- Pointer
- Fixed and Sliding Print Frames
- Lap Sized White Board
- Word and Sentence Strips
- Chart or Big Book Easel
- Pocket Charts



Additional Resources for Learning About Teaching Concepts About Print



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