



TWIN FALLS

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Physical,
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Speech
Therapy

providing
one-on-one
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clients

POP - Point Out Print

Early print knowledge is one key to later literacy!

Learning to read and write involves prerequisite knowledge of the following things:

- Print has meaning
- Print represents spoken language
- Books are used in specific ways (for example, they are held right side up and read from front to back)
- Print is read in a specific order – we read from left to right and from top to bottom
- Print includes letters, words, spaces and punctuation marks
- Letters of the alphabet combine to make words
- Letters have names, as well as upper case and lower case forms
- Words are separated by spaces
- Words are combined to make up sentences

The understanding of how print works is called **print knowledge** and it's one of the critical early literacy skills your child needs to be prepared for school.

**Hanen suggests POP or POINT OUT PRINT to teach print knowledge
It's not enough for your child to just see print around her. To learn how print works;
she'll need you to *draw her attention to it.***

POP is a strategy you can use during any daily routine or activity to draw different aspects of print to your child's attention. The more you POP, the more opportunities your child will have to think and talk about print.

POP throughout the day...

As you go about your day together, opportunities to POP will be everywhere. Here are just a few ideas:

- **Breakfast** –

Point out the colorful letters on the front of a cereal box or a carton of milk.

- **Getting dressed or folding laundry** –

If your child has clothing with print on it, read the print while tracking the words with your finger.

- **Bath-time** –

On a shampoo or bubble bath bottle, find a word that begins with the same letter as your child's name. For example: "That word says 'soft.' 'Soft' begins with the letter S, just like your name – Sarah."

- **Grocery shopping** –

Encourage your child to find the names of foods on their packages. Read the words and name some letters in the words, or ask your child to name the letters. For example, you can say: "Look, this says 'butter.' What letter does 'butter' start with?"

- **On a walk** –

Talk about the print you see on billboards, store signs, street signs, vehicles and posters. Make a game of spotting print all around you. You can also look for signs with more than one word, like "No Parking," "Main Floor" or "Garage Sale." Point out the spaces between words and count the number of words on each sign.



For more information about teaching your child pre-literacy skills, visit hanen.org or talk to one a Speech Therapist at Primary Therapy Source.

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