



# POP

## POINT OUT PRINT to Support Your Child's Early Literacy



If you have a preschool-aged child, you might be wondering what you can do to prepare them for learning to read and write. One of the key skills that lay the foundation for your child's literacy success is **print knowledge**.

Print knowledge means understanding that:

- ✓ Print has meaning – it communicates a message or tells a story just like spoken language does.
- ✓ Print is made up of letters, spaces, words, and punctuation marks.
- ✓ We read print in a specific way – from left to right and from the top to bottom of the page.



### Your Child Needs You to Point Out Print

Print is all around us, as well as in books we read to children. But did you know that just reading a book to your child is not enough to build their print knowledge? This is because children tend to focus on the pictures in a book, as well as on your voice telling the story. They may not even notice the words on the page or realize that the written words play an important part in telling the story.

To build your child's print knowledge, find moments to draw their attention to print. You can do this with a fun Hanen strategy called "POP" – **Point Out Print**.

### How to Point out Print

Pointing Out Print is something you can easily do during the everyday routines and activities you already do with your child. It's just a matter of keeping an eye out for the print all around you – and then seizing the opportunity to draw your child's attention to it and talk about it.

*Flip the page for ideas for how to POP with your child!*

## Five Times to

# POP!

### At mealtime



While preparing a meal, point out the print on food packaging. For example, as you read out the instructions on a package of pasta, track your finger along the text and say, “Look, it says here, ‘Bring the water to a boil’”. Or when you’re eating Cheerios in the morning, point out the name on the box: “This is where it says ‘Cheerios’”. You can even show how the letter “i” has a cheerio in place of the dot.

### On a walk



You can point out print on street signs, stores and parking metres. For example, you can talk about the first letter in the word “stop” and the sounds it makes. You can also count the number of words on signs like “No Parking” and “Garage Sale”, highlighting that the space between the words shows where one word ends and the other word begins.

### While watching TV



When selecting a show to watch, you can draw attention to the names of children’s shows, which often do fun things with the letters. For example, you could say, “Look, Peppa is standing on the letters P and A!” or “Look, there’s a paw print in the middle of the A in Paw Patrol!”.

### During play



While your child plays with a toy grocery cart and toy food, wait to see what they’re most interested in. As you join in the play, make a grocery list together about what your child wants to buy. Write down each item your child says, and add some ideas of your own. Make sure to say each word out loud as you write it.

### During book reading



Choose 1-2 times to POP during book reading. This will build your child’s print knowledge without interrupting the flow of the story. You can POP by:

- Tracking the text with your finger while you read.
- Pointing out the title on the cover, as well as the author and illustrator’s names.
- Pointing out the first letter in a word, and saying its name, as well as the sound it makes.
- Pointing out text in speech bubbles and explaining that it means the character is talking.
- Talking about words that are bigger, have all capital letters or have an explanation mark at the end, and explaining what this means – for example, that the character saying that word is excited, angry or surprised.

You can find more tips for building your child’s literacy in the Hanen parent guidebook *I’m Ready!™ How to Prepare Your Child for Reading Success*. Visit [www.hanen.org/ImReady](http://www.hanen.org/ImReady)

