

**Calling
ATTENTION TO
Print**

C.A.P.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact:

star@osu.edu

STAR at Home is a print-focused program to boost children's early literacy skills.
Thank you for your participation!



A How-To Guide for Parents

We Live in a World of Print

Print = letters, words, sentences, punctuation marks.

Learning about print is an important part of the preschool years.



Each time you read a STAR book, please take a few minutes to talk to your child about print.

Does your child notice words and letters in places like these? If so, he or she is already thinking about print.

Understanding the basics of print is important to success in school.

Studies show that unless adults point out the print in storybooks, children will focus mostly on the pictures.

You Can Call Attention to Print in Four Ways (See examples)

1. Ask Questions About Print

What is the first letter in this word?

Where should I start reading on this page?

What does an author do?

Which letter is an uppercase letter?

2. Make Comments About Print

This is the letter B.

All these words are the same.

Here is a really long word.

This word says "Boo."

3. Point to Print

Do I start reading here (point) or here (point)?

This is the title of the book (point).

Here is the letter E (point). That's in your name!

This (point) is a word I think you know.

4. Follow Print With Your Finger

Run your index finger under the words you read to show:

That we read from left to right. That we read from the top of the page to the bottom.

That we sweep down from the end of one line to the beginning of the next line.

That the words on the page tell the story.

Print is everywhere. By "Calling Attention to Print" you teach your children that print is important AND deserves their attention.

STAR Topic Cards

A STAR card is included for each book. Keep the STAR card handy as you read. It will help you and your child notice print and talk about it.

Two topics about print are provided for each book. Each time you read the book, talk about each topic 1-3 times.

There are Four Kinds of STAR Topics

1. Understanding Books

These topics help children understand what a book is, what its parts are, and how it is used.

Title of Book (The title is the name of the book—it gives clues to what the book is about.)

Role of Author (The author is the one who writes the book.)

Top and Bottom of Page (We read from the top of the page to the bottom of the page.)

Page Order (We turn the pages in a book from front to back.)

Print Direction (We read from left to right.)

2. Understanding that Print has Meaning

These topics help children understand what reading is, and why and how people read.

Role of Print (The print in the book tells the story.)

Print All Around Us (Notice words and letters on signs, labels, and everywhere!)

Role of Reading (Read to find out what happens next, to find out what we want to know, and for fun.)

3. Understanding Alphabet Letters

These topics help children understand what letters are, what their names are, and how they are used.

Noticing Letters (Notice alphabet letters and understand that letters make up words.)

Naming Letters (Know the names of alphabet letters.)

Uppercase and Lowercase Letters (Letters come in two sizes—big and small.)

4. Understanding Words

These topics help children understand what words are and to recognize some common words.

Noticing Words (Notice words—a word is a group of letters that has a meaning.)

Letters vs. Words (Understand the difference between letters and words; count words and letters.)

Short Words vs. Long Words (Notice short words and longer words—some short words, such as the, are common.)

Identifying Words (Recognize common words, repeated words, and words that can be "figured out" from the pictures.)

If Your Child Needs Help with the Topics...

Don't be afraid to challenge your child to learn new things that may be difficult at first. Provide plenty of support and encouragement. It's okay to help your child by explaining, giving examples, and providing the answers.

Over time, your child will become more comfortable talking about print.

