

Building

emotional learning and literacy
Family Connections

Capital District
Child Care Council Encouraging Literacy Education and Parent Engagement (LEAPE)

I Can Read...Exploring Environmental Print

What you can do...

Children begin to recognize symbols and print around them very early! The big golden arches we see every day have meaning to your child. Before children learn about letters and their sounds, they learn that symbols represent ideas. This concept will be expanded upon in Kindergarten when letters and their sounds are taught. This is an early literacy skill! As you drive and walk around town, notice and talk about signs and symbols around you including store signs, traffic signs and food packaging.



**Notice and
talk about signs
and symbols
around you**

How does this benefit children...

This enforces the concept that symbols (pictures, shapes, signs, and letters) represent an idea or have meaning.

Partner in Play:

Change the Game to fit Your Child

You can tailor this activity to fit your child's learning style.

- Take photos of the signs that you recognize. Your child can either print them out to create a compilation, or swipe through your photo gallery at his or her leisure.
- Cut out and collect food and home product labels. Make matching pairs and play memory!
- Use print-outs or photos of familiar store signs and tape or glue them to some of your child's blocks. Your child can use them to label his or her block structures.