

Knowledge of Print (How Books Work)

Materials Needed:

Books, note paper, pencils/pens

Directions: Encourage your child to choose their favorite book for reading together.

Step 1: Ask your child to show you the cover or beginning of the book.

Look For:

- Is the book right-side up and is the child pointing to the cover or first page of the story?

Step 2: At the start of a new page, ask the child to show you where to start reading. Encourage the child to read or mimic the act of the reading.

Look For:

- Is the child pointing, tapping or placing their hand on the left side of the page?
- Is the child pointing, tapping or placing their hand on the next line of text?
- Is the child pointing to each new word (recognizing that blank space does not hold meaning) as they pretend read the story?

Step 3: As you begin to read the story, ask your child to turn the pages.

Look For:

- Is the child turning the right page of the book, demonstrating directionality for English print and organization?

Step 4: Ask your child to point out various features of print:

Look For:

- Can your child point to a long or “big” words?
- Can your child show you where the beginning of a sentence is? The end of a sentence?



This work by WaKIDS for OSPI is available under a [Creative Commons Attribution License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

