

Looking for words everywhere

Rationale:

An everyday activity like a trip to the shop is a great place to start teaching literacy to your child. Your child's journey towards literacy involves learning to speak, listen, read, understand, watch, draw and write. You do not have to wait for school to start teaching these skills.

Age range information

1-5 years

What you need

This activity uses your normal household shopping trip, so you do not need any special equipment. Just look for the words all around you and share them with your child.

How to do it

1. Sit with your child while you write a shopping list. If he is old enough, he can 'write' a list too (or pretend to write one by scribbling on paper).
2. Talk about what you plan to buy, including any foods your child likes – for example, 'Let's put milk on the list. Milk starts with an 'm'. M-ilk'.
3. When you are at the shops, point out labels and price tags. Show your child how you use the list so you do not forget anything. He can help by crossing things off the list as you buy them.
4. Encourage your child to identify any words or letters on the things you buy. Ask him to guess what words mean by looking at the first letter and the picture on a packet. See if he also can find a product that begins with the first letter of his name.

Adapting for children of different ages

Your younger child might not be able to recognise letters but can still have fun with words and sounds. For example, you might say 'B-bananas. We need bananas'. Hold things up for your child to see when you name them, and make sure he watches your face while you are talking. Encourage him to try to make the sounds or say the words too.

Your older child will be better at pointing out letters and signs, and maybe even reading some. See if he can tell you how much something is from reading a price tag. You might want to look closer at a label and point out where you can read the ingredients or the country where the product came from.



Recommended Reads by the National Library Board

Recommended Reads

- [Orange pear apple bear](#)
- [Ann and Nan are anagrams: a mixed-up word dilemma](#)
- [Rocket Writes a Story](#)

Engage your child with simple activities at home! Check out some of these things you can do together:

- [Name the Animals](#)
- [I Spy My School Shoes](#)
- [Alphabet Trace for Kids](#)