

Take a look at more words all around us

Words, Words, Words

Annie has worked hard to make her classroom a literacy-rich space for her toddlers. Writing and drawing materials are kept out in the open. Annie hangs and often rotates all her toddlers' artistic and writing attempts. When she writes lists or takes attendance, she describes what she is doing to the children nearby. She has labeled the centers and objects in the room in the children's home languages. She knows that even though they cannot read yet, the children understand the meaning of classroom signs. They often point to or refer to them during their daily play and routines.



Environmental Print

Mark wants to engage his toddler class in environmental print. He asked parents to help by bringing in signs of familiar places that interest the children. They brought in pictures of street signs, signs from restaurants, schools, churches, and other familiar sights the children saw regularly. Mark and his co-teacher also took the children on a special neighborhood walk to take photographs of signs. They talked about what the signs meant and then displayed the pictures with the others around the classroom. The children began referring to the signs regularly by pointing them out. They engaged their teachers in conversation about the places and signs.

The Word on Decorating

In Erin's inclusive toddler class, many of the children enjoy decorating the room for special events like birthdays and holidays. Each new season also provides opportunities for decorating. Erin involves all the children in the process by providing adapted brushes, markers, and other art materials. She encourages children to speak messages into a computer program that prints out their words. Some children record greetings to play during parties. Others help select best-liked songs to sing. Erin prints out their dictations and songs and posts them in the room where they are easy to see. The children refer to these signs and posters with pride, noting all the ways they have helped prepare for the party.

