

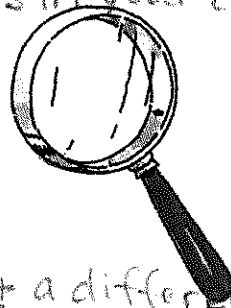
Newspaper Searches

Targeted skill

Young children are expected to recognize the letters of the alphabet, and later, sight words.

As always, start with the letters in your child's name.
Materials

- ◆ sections from a daily newspaper or magazine
- ◆ highlighter pens
- ◆ piece of paper or index card



* Note, it helps to use a different a different color highlighter/marker for each letter.
What to do

Tear out (or cut out) one page of the newspaper. Choose one letter of the alphabet and write its capital and lowercase forms on a piece of paper or index card. Remind your child of the letter's name and practice air-writing the letter (simply pretend to write the letter in the air). As you air-write the letter, describe what you are doing. For example, for *b*, say, "Straight line down, circle at the bottom." These little reminders help children remember how to write letters and how to recognize letters.

Challenge your child to find and highlight the letter you selected—and have him or her say the letter name each time it is highlighted. It is always a good idea to do the same work your child is doing, so take another newspaper page and highlight the selected letter as well, then ask your child to read the highlighted letters on your page of the paper. *Start with one or two sentences and work your way up.*

Extending the activity

After your child reaches the point at which he or she can easily find the identified letter in newspaper print, ask your child to look for commonly used words, such as *the*, *and*, *is*, and *was*. These are called "sight words." *You can also discover how the font (style of letter) varies in different kinds of publications.*

What your child is practicing

During Newspaper Searches, your child is practicing the skill of finding one specific bit of information from a page full of text. This early step of making sense of print is one of the pre-reading skills that help prepare your child for real reading.