

## BATHGATE E.Y.C. - Engaging with Parents

### TRY AT HOME

#### What is Environmental Print?

Environmental print is the print that is found in the world around us and is usually the first print a young child recognises.

The print they see in their everyday lives holds great meaning for them, such as:

- Labels on food boxes, cans, and bags
- Signs for familiar restaurants, shops and/ or buildings
- Street signs
- Traffic signs

Recognising environmental print is one of the beginning stages of literacy development. Children get excited when they feel they can "read" the print in their environment. When they begin to understand that letters and symbols have meaning it builds their confidence and they begin to feel like successful "readers" which motivates them to read more. When children are confident and excited about reading the more likely they are to become successful readers.

#### Our Environmental Print TRY at HOME activity:

Please help your child collect a few examples of environmental print from their visits out and about in their local community.

Some examples might be street name signs; traffic signs; shop sign; signs from familiar buildings. When you are out and about with your child please point out familiar letters sounds and words in these signs and then use a phone or digital camera to take a photo and e mail it to [wlbathgate.eyc@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:wlbathgate.eyc@westlothian.org.uk). We will then print these off and discuss with the children during group time literacy activities.

If you wish you can also cut names from food packaging etc. at home. Please make sure the sample is clean and flat. We will use the pieces of community environmental print collected to create a special book and display which will be added to our learning about our local community. Food packaging will be laminated and used to prompt interest in writing and early reading .

Thank you in advance for your participation.

