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 recognizes. 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 or stores
- Traffic signs
- Logos for favorite toys

Recognizing environmental print is one of the beginning stages of literacy development. Children get excited when they feel like 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 Project

Please help your child collect a few examples of environmental print from their favorite foods. Some examples might be the fronts of cereal boxes or labels from cans. Please make sure the sample is clean and flat- it may need to be cut. We will use the pieces of environmental print collected to create a class book. We will be sending home requests throughout the year for other examples of environmental print to provide further early literacy opportunities in the classroom.

Thank you in advance for your participation,