

Follow the Words - Teacher Script

Skill/Objective: The child will track print from left to right and move from the top of a page to the bottom.

Materials Needed:

- One children's picture book with large print
- "Follow the Words" worksheet
- Pencil or crayon
- Small pointer, craft stick, or index finger

TEACHER SCRIPT

Today we are going to learn how our eyes move when we read. Words have a special path for us to follow.

Look at this page. We begin with the first word at the top of the page. In English, we read from left to right. Watch my finger as I start on the left and slide underneath the words toward the right.

When I reach the end of the line, I do not keep moving off the page. I move my finger back to the left side and go down to the next line. This is called a return sweep. Then I follow the new line from left to right again.

Let's try an example. I will read, "I see a cat." My finger begins under the word I and moves across every word until it reaches cat. If another sentence is underneath, I return to the left and move down to that sentence.

Now place your finger at the beginning of this line. Slide it from left to right. When you reach the end, return to the left and move down to the next line.

Remember: start at the top, move from left to right, and then move down.

Can you show me where reading begins on this page?

PRACTICE

The child will use a finger or pointer to follow printed lines from left to right and use a return sweep to move down to the next line.

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GUIDED PRACTICE

Open a picture book to a page containing two or more lines of large print.

1. Point to the top of the page and say, "We begin near the top."
2. Point to the first word on the left.
3. Read the line aloud while sliding your finger beneath the words.
4. Pause at the end of the line.
5. Model returning to the left and moving down to the next line.
6. Read the next line while tracking the words.
7. Ask the child to place a finger beneath the first word of another line.
8. Read aloud while the child tracks from left to right.
9. Prompt the child to perform the return sweep independently.
10. Repeat with two or three additional lines.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

The child will complete the "Follow the Words" worksheet by tracing left-to-right reading paths and tracking three patterned sentences from the top of the page to the bottom. An adult should read the sentences aloud. Independent word reading is not expected.

REVIEW

Ask:

- Do we begin at the top or bottom of a page?
- Do we read from left to right or right to left?
- What do we do when we reach the end of a line?
- Where do we find the next line?

ASSESSMENT

Show the child a new page containing at least three lines of print. Ask the child to:

- Point to the first line.
- Show where reading begins.
- Track the first line from left to right.
- Return to the left side.
- Move down to the second line.
- Continue following the remaining lines in order.

Record the performance as:

- Independent
- With a prompt
- Not yet

The objective is met when the child independently begins at the top left, tracks across the line, and moves to the next line using an appropriate return sweep.