These notes offer ideas for group leaders who wish to run a session or sessions focusing on work with parents on *Environmental Print*. They offer suggestions for oral presentation, overhead transparencies, and activities. Group leaders may also wish to support this session by showing relevant clips from the film *Early Literacy Education with Parents – a Framework for Practice*.

It is essential that participants have a grasp of the ORIM framework – either by viewing the DVD, or – more fully, by participating in the session in the tool box on the ORIM framework.

These notes are written to enable group leaders to run a session (or sessions) with the following objectives:

- To ensure that participants have a grasp of the underpinning theory of the environmental print strand of literacy
- To equip them with ideas for working with parents on *environmental print*
- To provide participants with a framework within which they can generate their own ideas for work on this aspect of literacy

**Focusing on theoretical aspects of environmental print**

- Talk with the group about theoretical aspects of children’s developing awareness of and interest in environmental print, using the materials in the environmental print cells to support the sessions.

You may wish to use materials available here to develop an outline of your talk.

- This could be a good time to view part of the DVD which illustrates the environmental print strand of literacy.

**Focusing on the ORIM framework**

- Remind participants of the ORIM framework and the cells of the framework on which this session focuses. The diagram of the ORIM framework can be used as a handout for this session or put on a powerpoint presentation.
- It will be useful for participants to have copies of the ORIM framework to hand as they work through the ideas presented in the environmental print cells of the ORIM framework.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Books</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Oral Language</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recognition</td>
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<td>Interaction</td>
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<td>Model</td>
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**Suggestions for working on environmental print with parents**

A *literacy walk* which focuses on neighbourhood print or an *environmental print day* which draws attention of household print can be useful and fun events to give the group ideas of the potential for work with parents on this strand of literacy.

Environmental print and photographs or home made film of neighbourhood print are particularly useful for this session and can draw attention to the range of print that exists.

The ideas presented in the four environmental print cells on this website focus on Opportunities, Interaction, Recognition and Model are they relate to environmental print. Here are some possibilities:

- Work through the list of ideas on the sheet *a* discussing the ideas listed for work with parents.
- Give participants blank copies of the *ORIM* planning sheet for working on environmental print (sheet *d*) and invite them in groups to list their own ideas in each cell.
- Use a copy of sheet *d* on a flip chart to collate the ideas of the group.
- This can be reproduced later as a feedback sheet for the group.
- Allow some times for participants to look at a display of environmental print and perhaps some print games that can be used to promote this strand of literacy.
- Decide with the group which elements of their work will be collated as feedback and the details of further follow up sessions. Informal networks may develop between participants working on similar ideas and with a shared focus.
Supporting sheets for group leaders

a
Outline of Presentation

b
Supporting references

c
ORIM – ideas for working on environmental print

d
ORIM – planning sheet for work on environmental print
DEVELOPING WORK WITH

PARENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PRINT

• Importance of print in children’s lives
• Range of print
• Context
• Reading or recognising?
• Environmental print and writing
DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRINT

SOME BACKGROUND TO EARLY THEORIES OF THE TOPIC


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Which strand(s) of literacy?</strong></th>
<th><strong>Environmental Print in the neighbourhood</strong></th>
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</table>
| **How can we help parents provide OPPORTUNITIES?** | Slides to show the extent of print in the neighbourhood  
'Print walks'  
'Print ride' on the bus and train  
'Shopping for print' |
| **How can we enhance parents’ RECOGNITION of early achievement?** | 'Using the 'jigsaw of environmental print'  
Playing logo matching and identification games with their children? |
| **How can we support/extend parents’ INTERACTION with their children?** | Suggest things to do with print  
Using a video where parents talk about the things they do  
Discussing recordings/videos of parent-child conversations about print |
<p>| <strong>Can we suggest how parents could provide a MODEL?</strong> | Discussing ways in which we use print - maps, sign posts, bus numbers etc. and finding ways to make use of these examples of print explicit |</p>
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