

# Reading Around the Room

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<b>Level</b>	<b><i>Beginning</i></b>
<b>Aims</b>	<b><i>Increase phonological awareness</i></b> <b><i>Help students isolate initial sounds</i></b>
<b>Class Time</b>	<b><i>5–10 minutes</i></b>
<b>Preparation Time</b>	<b><i>15–20 minutes</i></b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b><i>Labels for objects in the classroom</i></b> <b><i>Pointer sticks</i></b>



When reading with young children, teachers often use pointer sticks to call attention to each word as it is read. Young learners enjoy using pointer sticks to find and read labels around the classroom. For beginners, finding labels on familiar objects helps them to improve their phonological awareness and notice the letters for initial sounds.

## PROCEDURE

1. Write or print out labels and attach them to objects in the classroom.
2. Demonstrate appropriate use of pointer sticks for pointing to the labels and reading the words.
3. Allow the students to read around the room by pointing to the different labels and reading the words aloud.

## CAVEATS AND OPTIONS

1. If you want the students to focus on a particular sound or sounds, you can mark the pointer sticks with different letters and send the students on a treasure hunt searching for words that begin with that letter. When students are holding *D* pointer sticks, they should find and read the labels for *door*, *desk*, *drawer*, and so forth. When students are holding *M* pointer sticks, they should point to and read the labels for *mirror*, *marker*, *map*, and so forth.
2. You might want to begin with words that are easy to recognize because of the item they represent. As students progress, you can add labels to the

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classroom that are more challenging. As you add each new set of labels, use a different color of paper. This will allow you to give instructions such as, *Now, use your pointer stick to read all of the yellow labels in the classroom.*

3. Another option is to put the students in pairs and give them a checklist of labels to find. As they find each item, they can make a checkmark in the corresponding box.