Databases

Databases are used to find formally published articles.

If you’re unsure which database to use, check the list of databases in the Child and Family Health LibGuide or ask your liaison librarian.
Boolean searching

Boolean searching (or Boolean logic) is the formal way to search a database.

This involves 4 steps: choosing concept keywords and connecting them with AND; choosing alternative words for the concepts and connecting them with OR; phrases; truncation.
Choosing the concepts

Initially choose words that represent the concepts directly from the problem statement.

You may have to rewrite the problem statement – *but don’t lose any meaning!!*
Choosing the concepts

Initially choose words that represent the concepts directly from the problem statement.

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Discuss the importance of promoting immunisation during early childhood.
Choosing the concepts

Initially choose words that represent the concepts directly from the problem statement.

You may have to rewrite the problem statement – *but don’t lose any meaning!!*

Discuss the importance of **promoting immunisation during early childhood.**
Connect the concepts with AND

Initially choose words that represent the concepts directly from the problem statement.

You may have to rewrite the problem statement – but don’t lose any meaning!!

Discuss the importance of promoting immunisation during early childhood.
Connect the concepts with AND

promoting

AND

immunisation

AND

early childhood
Connect alternative words (or spellings) with OR

promoting

AND

immunisation

AND

early childhood
Connect alternative words (or spellings) with OR

promoting OR encouraging
AND
immunisation OR immunization OR vaccination
AND
early childhood OR infancy

The database will now find at least one word from each line
Use "" for phrases

promoting OR encouraging
AND
immunisation OR immunization OR vaccination
AND
early childhood OR infancy
Use “” for phrases

promoting OR encouraging
AND
immunisation OR immunization OR vaccination
AND
“early childhood” OR infancy

The database will now look for specific phrases
Truncate words

promoting OR encouraging
AND
immunisation OR immunization OR vaccination
AND
“early childhood” OR infancy
Truncate words

promot* OR encourag*
AND
immuni* OR vaccin*
AND
“early childhood” OR infan*

The database will now also find variations of word stems
Boolean search in EBSCOhost

OR operator

Truncation

AND operator

Phrase
Choose concepts from the problem statement and connect with AND.

Think of whatever alternative words (or spellings) you can and connect with OR.

Use “” for specific phrases.

Truncate to find variations of word stems.

Run the search, and look for vocabulary in the initial results to add to your search strategy.

Searching is iterative, imaginative and experimental!!!