Rhyming Fun

Children love to be "rhyming machines." They enjoy being able to match words that rhyme or invent new rhyming words. Rhyming can be hard for children to learn, as they tend to listen to the beginning sounds of word instead of the ending sounds. It is an important skill to know to prepare for reading on their own. Rhyming is part of phonological awareness.

Rhymes are commonly found in songs, poems, and nursery rhymes. Hearing the rhyme sound is one reason it is easier for people to remember the words in songs, poems and nursery rhymes. Rhymes have patterns and rhythms to them.

Learning to identify and create rhymes takes practice. It is helpful to find times during the day that you can work on rhyming with your child. Make it a game and have fun with it!

Rhyming Activities

- During meal time, think of words that rhyme with the food you are eating: bread-head, cheese-knees.
- In the bathtub practice rhyming word families. Choose a word family and have your child choose a letter. Example: "at" family- add "c" for cat, "b" for bat, "m" for mat, etc.
- Recite nursery rhymes as you are driving in the car.
- Sing songs as you are working together in the yard, cleaning up toys, etc.

Featured Book

Each Peach, Pear, Plum, by Janet Ahlberg

Rhyming text and detailed illustrations invite the reader to play "I Spy" with a variety of Mother Goose and other folklore characters. This book is a classic favorite!

More Ahlberg books:

Some good books to help your child rhyme...

- Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, by Eileen Christelow
- Miss Mary Mack, by Mary Ann Hoberman
- Seals on the Bus, by Lenny Hort
- Here Comes the Big, Mean Dust Bunny! by Jan Thomas
- Green Eggs and Ham, by Dr. Seuss
- You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Mother Goose Tales to Read Together, by Mary Ann Hoberman
More fun with *Each Peach, Pear, Plum*...

**Rhyme time...** Play “I Spy” with pictures on the pages of the book. “I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with ‘bear’ (pear).” Let your child make up rhymes and have you guess, too.

**Nursery Rhymes...** Nursery rhymes are a simple and easy way to help your child build rhyming skills. Research suggests that children who know lots of nursery rhymes before they begin school tend to find more success with learning to read. You can find books of nursery rhymes at your local library.

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**Nursery Rhymes in *Each Peach, Pear, Plum***

**'Bye Baby Bunting**
Daddy’s gone a’hunting  
Mommy’s gone a’milking  
Sister’s gone a’silking  
Brother’s gone to buy a skin  
To wrap the baby bunting in.

**Jack and Jill**
Jack and Jill went up the hill  
To fetch a pail of water.  
Jack fell down and broke his crown,  
And Jill came tumbling after.

**Old Mother Hubbard**
Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard  
To fetch her poor dog a bone.  
But when she got there the cupboard was bare,  
And so the poor dog had none.

**Little Bo-Peep**
Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep  
And doesn’t know where to find them.  
Leave them alone, and they will come home,  
Dragging their little tails behind them.

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**Sing Silly Songs**

**Row, Row, Row Your Boat**
Row, row, row your boat  
Gently down the stream.  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,  
Life is but a dream.

**Now make up new words to the song...**
Row, row, row your car...  
**Or make up silly words...**  
Tow, tow, tow my goat...  
**Nonsense words...**  
Bow, bow, bow my doat...

**Sing about where you are going or what you are doing...**
Wash, wash, wash my hands...  
Walk, walk, walk to school...

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**What your library can do for you...**
Don’t have access to a computer? Most libraries do not require a library card in order to use the computers. Some even offer free computer classes.

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