



The Bookworm Ages 3-5

From your Local Library and Idaho's Read to Me Program

Playing with words...

To understand a spoken language, a child must be able to hear the different sounds and parts of the words that make up the language. By playing with words, children develop "phonological awareness." Most children who have phonological awareness have an easier time learning to read.

Here's what you can do:

- Help your pre-reader become aware of the smaller sounds that make up words by learning nursery rhymes and making up your own silly, nonsense rhymes together.
- Ask whether two words rhyme: "Do 'cat' and 'hat' sound alike?" "Do 'cat' and 'dog' rhyme?"
- Sing songs with your child every day. Songs naturally break words into syllables and are a fun way to learn about word sounds (see back, "More fun with Action Rhymes").
- Play "I Spy" with rhymes. "I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with 'far' (car)." Let your child make up rhymes and have you guess, too.
- Put two words together to make a new word: "What word would we have if we put 'cow' and 'boy' together?"
- Leave out the last rhyming word. For example: Twinkle, twinkle little star, How I wonder what you _____, (are). Do this with other nursery rhymes, poems and songs that your child knows by heart.
- Say rhymes and sing songs in the language most comfortable for you.

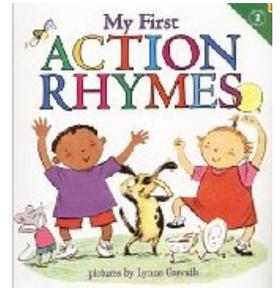
Book of the Month

My First Action Rhymes, pictures by Lynne Cravath

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands!

Here's a book of 10 playful rhymes that adults can chant with their young children. If you don't

remember the actions, there are easy instructions listed in italics. Your child will love the pictures as well as acting out the rhymes. This is a great book to enjoy together on a rainy March day!



More great books to help your child play with words...

Llama Llama Red Pajama, Anna Dewdney

Mouse Mess, Linnea Asplind

Chicky Chicky Chook Chook, Kathy MacLennan

Saturday Night at the Dinosaur

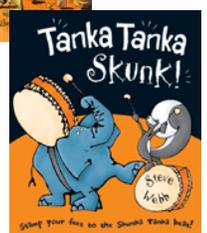
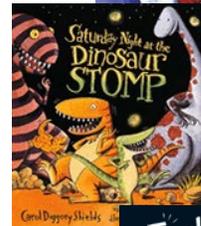
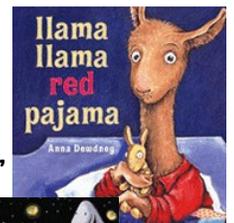
Stomp, Carol Diggory Shields

Fox in Socks, Dr. Seuss

Take Me Out of the Bathtub, and *Other Silly Dilly Songs*, Alan Katz

Tanka Tanka Skunk, Steve Webb

Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme books



More fun with *My First Action Rhymes...*

Rhyme Time: Choose two words from one of the rhymes in the book, such as toes and nose. Say them several times with your child and explain that these words *rhyme*, they sound alike. Help your child think of other real and non-sense words that rhyme with nose and toes (hose, goes, kose, zoes).

Out and about: Play "Secret Word" in the car, doctor's office, in line at the store, etc. Think of a word, then say a word that rhymes with the secret word (it sounds like 'hook'). Have your child guess the word. You can give hints (we read this each night).

Music and movement: Put some rhythm into these rhymes! Bounce, clap, tap, stomp, drum, jump, snap... Giving each part of the word a beat will help your young child learn to break words into syllables.

clap= 1 syllable

happy= 2 syllables

excited= 3 syllables



On-line Resources

Here are some websites that can help your preschool child develop phonological awareness:

www.starfall.com

www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/en/

www.teachersandfamilies.com/nursery/index.html

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...

- *Children this age also like to make sentences that all begin with the same letter:*

Seven slimy snakes sang silly songs!



What your library can do for you...

Ask your librarian about story times and other programs that are offered for preschoolers. Most story times for young children focus on rhymes and sounds.

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