



For grades  
**K-1**

# The Bookworm

From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

## Playing with words...

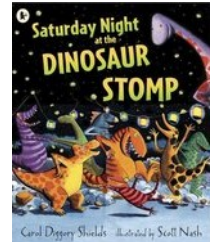
Some words rhyme, and some words begin with the same sound. Sentences are made up of words and words can be broken down into smaller parts. Children who begin to notice these things are developing "phonological awareness," which means being able to hear and work with the sounds in a spoken language.

Research shows that how easily children learn to read can depend on how much phonological awareness they have. Here's what you can do:

- 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.
- Point out sentences where all the words begin with the same letter (The fat frog fell on Friday).
- Put two words together to make a new word: "What word would we have if we put 'cow' and 'boy' together?"
- Take words apart. "What little words do you hear in 'hotdog'?"
- Leave out the last rhyming word. For example: Twinkle, twinkle little star, How I wonder what you \_\_\_\_\_, (are). Do this with other rhymes, poems and songs that your child knows by heart, or make up silly rhymes and songs together (see page 2).
- Say rhymes and sing songs in the language that is most comfortable for you.

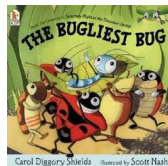
## Book of the Month

### *Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp*, by Carol Diggory Shields



"They played in rhythm, they sang in rhyme, dinosaur music in dinosaur time!" This is a great read-aloud book with colorful and wacky illustrations. Here is a website that tells how to say the names of the dinosaurs: [www.dinodictionary.com](http://www.dinodictionary.com)

Carol Diggory Shields has written several books that help kids play with words:



*The Bugliest Bug*  
*Food Fight!*  
*Wombat Walkabout*

### Favorite Dinosaur Fiction

Mo Willems:



*Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct*

Lois Grambling:



*Can I Have a Stegosaurus, Mom? Can I? Please?!*

*Can I Have a Tyrannasaurus, Dad? Can I? Please?!*

Jane Yolen:



*How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?*

(and other 'How Do Dinosaurs...' series) Many of these books are also available in Spanish.

## More fun with *Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp*

**Word play:** Try this with your child. Say 'clap.' Now say it without the 'c' sound (lap). Now say it with 'n' at the beginning (nap). Now add the 's' sound at the beginning (snap). You turned a 'clap' into a 'snap!' Can you keep going?

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

stomp= 1 syllable

lava= 2 syllables

dinosaur= 3 syllables



**Find out:** Visit your local library to find books about dinosaurs. Here are some good dinosaur websites that are geared for young school-age kids:

[www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/)

[www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/tour/tour.htm?dinosaurs](http://www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/tour/tour.htm?dinosaurs)

### Recognizing Reading Problems

*By: Reading Rockets (2007)*

Learning to read is a challenge for many kids, but most can become good readers if they get the right help. Parents have an important job in recognizing when a child is struggling and knowing how to find help.

#### What to look for:

- Difficulty rhyming
- Difficulty hearing individual sounds
- Difficulty following directions
- Difficulty re-telling a story
- Struggles to sound out most words
- Avoids reading aloud

If you think your school-age child is struggling with learning to read, talk to her teacher sooner rather than later. The school can provide free support if needed!



Here are some websites that can help your school-age child play with words and build phonological awareness:

#### PBS Kids

**Between the Lions:** <http://pbskids.org/lions/index.html> (for K-1st grades)

Games: Chicken Stack, Fuzzy Ears, Blending Bowl, Theo's Puzzles, Dub Cubs

Stories: Beetle Bop, Priceless Gifts, Shower of Stars, Spicy Hot Colors

**The Electric Company:** <http://pbskids.org/electriccompany/> (for 1st-2nd grades)

Games: Combotronic, Chain Game, Shock's Beat Box

#### Scholastic

**Learning Arcade:** [www.scholastic.com/parents/play/games/](http://www.scholastic.com/parents/play/games/)



### What your library can do for you...

Ask your librarian about story times, learning programs, or special events that are offered for children and families.

*Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.*

Printed 2010

