



The Bookworm Ages 6-8

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.

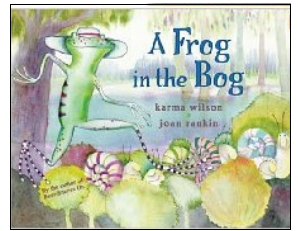
Here's what you can do:

- Help your child 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.
- 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?"
- 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

A Frog in the Bog, by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Joan Rankin

Kids will love this counting/rhyming book based on "There was an old woman who swallowed a fly." A small, green frog sits in a bog and eats bug after bug. From one tiny tick to five slimy snails he gulps them all down. And with each slithering helping, "The frog gets a little bit bigger!" But is that log really a log after all?



Did you know that author Karma Wilson lives in northern Idaho? Ms. Wilson, the mother of three, has published numerous books, many of which are on the shelves of libraries and bookstores around the world. Her books have received numerous state and national awards, been translated into dozens of languages, and a few have made an appearance on the New York Times bestseller list. Look for more Karma Wilson books at your local library:

Bear Snores On

Bear Feels Scared

Whopper Cake

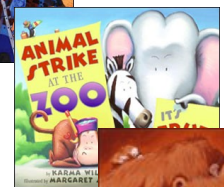
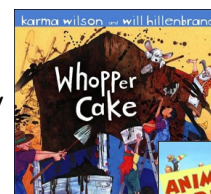
Moose Tracks

Hilda Must Be Dancing

Animal Strike at the Zoo.

It's True!

And many more...



More fun with *Frog in the Bog*

Word play: Try this with your child. Say 'frog.' Now say it without the 'f' sound (rog). Now say it with 'uh' in the middle (rug). Now say it with a 'b' sound at the beginning (bug). You turned a 'frog' into a 'bug!' Can you keep going?

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.

frog= 1 syllable
belly= 2 syllables
excited= 3 syllables



More: Visit Karma Wilson's website for other Frog in the Bog ideas...
www.karmawilson.com/teachers.htm

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>

Games: Chicken Stack, Fuzzy Ears, Blending Bowl

Stories: Spicy Hot Colors, Bee-bim Bop, Sea Horse

PBS Kids Go

The Electric Company: <http://pbskids.org/electriccompany/>

Games: Combotron, Chain Game

Scholastic

Learning Arcade: 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.

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