

Did you know...



Play is the most age-appropriate way for young children to learn. In order for children to know letter sounds and rhyming words when they are older, it is important to play with words throughout the day. Talking with and to your child is one of the most valuable things you can do to help them become a strong reader, so talk a lot and make it fun.

Being able to hear the little parts of words is called *phonological awareness*. When you are having fun with words by making up nonsense words or animal sounds you are helping develop this important early literacy skill. Start talking with your child from the minute they are born so it becomes a natural interaction with them.

For more information on playing with words, watch this video clip.

www.everychildreadytoread.org/sites/default/files/SongsandLangauge.wmv

Here's how...



- ❖ Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme. Emphasize the rhyming words. "Twinkle, twinkle, little **star**, How I wonder what you **are**."
- ❖ Read and re-read books your child enjoys.
- ❖ Catch your child's attention by repeating the sounds he likes to say. Change the first letter to make a new silly word: *Baa-baa becomes la-la*.
- ❖ Sing songs with your child. Traditional nursery rhymes are a great source for rhyming words and new vocabulary.

Read



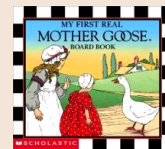
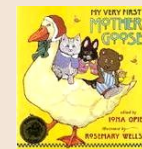
The Real Mother Goose, illustrated by Blanche Fisher Wright



This sturdy board book, just the right size for little hands, contains 15 nursery rhymes your young child will love bouncing, clapping, and singing with you.

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 more books of nursery rhymes at your local library.



Choosing Books



Types of books that help your child begin to play with words...

Rhyming books

Dr. Seuss books

Books that illustrate a familiar song

Books with a rhythm or beat

Books with animal sounds

Poetry and nursery rhyme books

Books that have repeating words or sounds

Talk



Hickory, Dickory, Dock is a fun nursery rhyme to act out while your young child is taking a bath. You can use a bar of soap or washcloth to go up your child's arm when the "mouse ran up the clock" or down their arm and make a splash in the water as you say "the mouse ran down".

Hickory, Dickory, Dock!
The mouse ran up the clock;
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down,
Hickory, Dickory, Dock!

Adapted from *125 Brain Games for Babies*, by Jackie Silberg

Sing



Hey, Diddle Diddle!

Hey, diddle, diddle!
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon;
The little dog laughed
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.



Write



In order to learn to hold a pencil later on, young children need to develop the small muscles in their hands and fingers. Give your toddler a clean sponge while she is in the bathtub, or outside with a bucket of water. Show her how to squeeze the sponge in the water to soak it full, then squeeze it out in a large cup or bowl. Make it a fun game to play.

At your library...



Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!

Play



Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?

Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.

One for my master, one for my dame,

One for the little boy who lives down the lane.

Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?

Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.

