

## 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.

Singing and playing with words will help your child begin to hear the smaller sounds in words. These *phonological awareness* skills are needed later on as children learn to read.

Introduce your child to rhyming words through books, nursery rhymes and making up nonsense words. Just have fun with words and your child's skills will keep growing.

## Here's how...

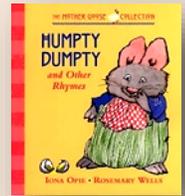


- ✦ Sing or play songs about animals while you move like them— hop like a bunny, strut like a chicken, gallop like a horse. Encourage your child to make that animal's sound as they move around.
- ✦ Use rhyming words when you give directions to your child. Example: "There's milk in your cup. Now drink it up!"
- ✦ Catch your child's attention by repeating a word they like to say. Change the first letter to make a new silly word: *Doggie becomes roggie, hoggie, soggie and so on.*
- ✦ Sing songs with your child. Traditional nursery rhymes are a great source for rhyming words and new vocabulary.

## Read



### ***Humpty Dumpty and other Rhymes, by Iona Opie***



In this Mother Goose board book, eight favorite nursery rhymes are illustrated by award-winning author/illustrator Rosemary Wells.

Other books by Opie and Wells:



**Fact:** *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 play with words...**

*Rhyming books*

*Dr. Seuss books*

*Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme books*

*Books that illustrate a familiar song*

*Books with a rhythm or beat*

*Books with animal noises*

*Books with sounds, such as "buzz," "zoom," or "pop!"*

## Talk



Choose two words from a favorite nursery rhyme, such as Jill and hill. Say them several times with your toddler and explain that these words rhyme, they sound alike. Help her think of other real and nonsense words that rhyme with Jill and hill (pill, bill, mill, vill).

## Ready to Write



Fingerplays let your children use their hands and fingers to act out a song or rhyme. This activity strengthens the little muscles needed to hold and control a pencil, and builds early literacy skills. Fingerplays are fun and can be done anywhere and anytime!

## Sing



### Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are.  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are.

Hear song at <https://tinyurl.com/joco-twinkle>

### Have You Ever Seen a Baby

*(Tune: Have You Ever Seen a Lassie?)*

Have you ever seen a baby, a baby, a baby?  
Have you ever seen a baby go this way and that?  
Go this way and that way,  
And that way and this way,  
Have you ever seen a baby go this way and that?

See motions and hear tune at:

<https://tinyurl.com/wccls-everseenbaby>

*Videos from the Johnson County Library and  
Washington County Cooperative Library System*

## Play



### Fingerplay: Five Little Monkeys

Five little monkeys swinging in a tree *(hold up five fingers and bounce them)*

Teasing Mr. Crocodile: You can't catch me! You can't catch me! *(point and shake index finger)*

Along came Mr. Crocodile, quiet as can be *(make crocodile jaws with hand)*

And— snap! *(clap hands)* He snatched the monkey right out of the tree.\*

Four little monkeys swinging in the tree...  
*(Continue counting down until there are no monkeys left)*

No little monkeys swinging in a tree, and away swims Mr. Crocodile, as full as he can be! *(make crocodile jaws with hand)*

See a video at: <https://tinyurl.com/wccls-5monkeys>



*\*For a happy ending after Snap!, the monkeys can say, "You missed me, you missed me!" And the crocodile swims away as mad as can be.*

## At your library...



Don't have access to a computer? Many libraries do not require a library card in order to use the computers. Some even offer free computer classes.