

Did you know...



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 smaller sounds in a spoken language.

When you are having fun with words through word play, like rhyming, you are helping develop this important early literacy skill.

For more information about how you can help your child develop phonological awareness visit:

www.phonologicalawareness.org

Here's how...



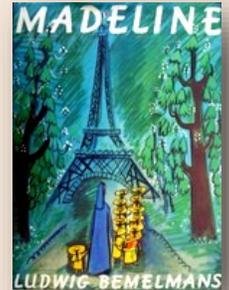
- ❖ Point out sentences where all the words begin with the same letter– The fat frog fell on Friday.
- ❖ Change the words in a nursery rhyme or song with silly or nonsense rhyming words. “Willaby wallaby woo, an elephant sat on you” becomes “Willaby, wallaby, wottle, an elephant sat on a bottle.”
- ❖ Play “I Spy” games with rhyming words or beginning sounds. “I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with far (car).”
- ❖ Introduce “homophones,” words that sound alike but have a different meaning (sow and sew). They may be spelled differently or the same (bat and bat).

Read

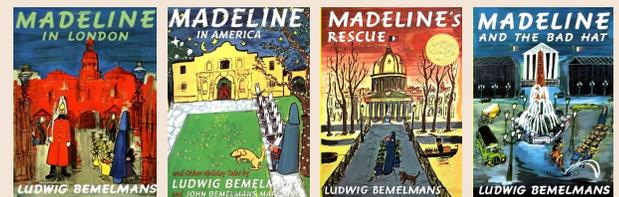


Madeline, by Ludwig Bemelmans

"In an old house in Paris, that was covered with vines, lived twelve little girls in two straight lines," begins this classic tale. Enjoy the playful tone and rhyming text as you discover the joy of a small but brave little girl named Madeline.



Other Madeline books:



Choose Books



Other fun books to play with words:

Bearobics, by Victoria Parker

Big Chickens, by Leslie Helakoski

CDC? by William Steig

Did You Say Pears? by Arlene Alda

Take Away the A, by Michaël Escoffier

Rhyming Dust Bunnies, by Jan Thomas

Tanka Tanka Skunk, by Steve Webb



Did you know?



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 kindergartner is struggling with learning to read, talk to her teacher sooner rather than later. The school can provide free support if needed!

Play and Write



Children this age love “pretend play.” This is one way they learn about the world around them, especially how print is used in everyday life. Help your child set up a pretend doctor’s office or veterinary clinic, where they can treat stuffed animals or dolls as patients. Then add ways she can write and use print:

- Make signs, an appointment book, medicine bottles, a nametag for the doctor, etc.
- Show her how to make notes on a medical chart or write a prescription.
- Make an eye chart, or pretend x-rays.
- Check out books about doctors or veterinarians at the library.

Use your imagination when playing with literacy at home. You and your child will have a great time and not even realize that you are learning. Have fun playing!

Sing



Frère Jacques

(traditional French song)



Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques,
Dormez vous? Dormez vous?
Sonnez les matines,
Sonnez les matines,
Din, din, don!
Din, din, don!

English:

Are you sleeping?
Are you sleeping?
Brother John,
Brother John?
Morning bells are ringing.
Morning bells are ringing.
Ding! Ding! Dong!
Ding! Ding! Dong!

Spanish:

Martínelo,
Martínelo
Duermas tú?
Duermas tú?
Tocan las campanas,
Tocan las campanas
Din Din Don
Din Din Don.

Hear the tune at:

<http://tinyurl.com/kididdles-frerejacques>

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!