

## 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. Find times throughout the day that are a natural fit for talking and rhyming, such as riding in the car, bath time, mealtime, and getting ready for bed.

*Research shows that children who have phonological awareness tend to have an easier time learning to read.*

## Here's how...

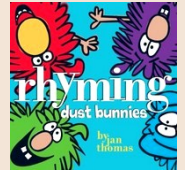


- ❖ Ask whether two words rhyme: "Do 'cat' and 'hat' sound alike?" "Do 'cat' and 'dog' rhyme?"
- ❖ Take compound words apart. "What little words do you hear in hotdog?"
- ❖ Leave out the last rhyming word: Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you \_\_\_\_\_, (are). Do this with other rhymes, poems and songs that your child knows by heart.
- ❖ Put two words together to make a new word: "What word would we have if we put 'cow' and 'boy' together?"
- ❖ Say rhymes and sing songs in the language that is most comfortable for you.

## Read



### **Rhyming Dust Bunnies,** by Jan Thomas

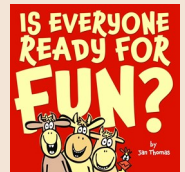
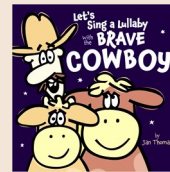


Dust bunnies Ed, Ned, and Ted are great at rhyming, but Bob... not so much. Does Bob really not know how to rhyme, or is he trying to tell us something?

Jan Thomas' website has fun learning activities for your child that will build math and literacy skills.

[www.janthomasbooks.com/thingstodo.html](http://www.janthomasbooks.com/thingstodo.html)

Some more Jan Thomas books to look for at your library:



## Choose Books



### **Other fun books that play with words...**

*Dinosaur Stomp*, by Paul Stickland

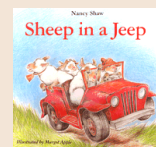
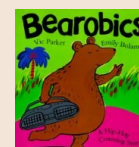
*Big Chickens*, by Leslie Helakoski

*Bearobics: A Hip-Hop Counting Story*, by Vic Parker

*Froggy Gets Dressed*, by Jonathan London

*Sheep in a Jeep*, by Nancy E. Shaw

*The Hungry Thing*, by Jan Slepian





### Willoughby Wallaby Woo

Willoughby wallaby woo, an elephant sat on you.

Willoughby wallaby wee, an elephant sat on me.

Willoughby wallaby Wustin, an elephant sat on Justin.

Willoughby wallaby Wania, an elephant sat on Tania. (use family and pet names)

Listen to this song at:

<http://bussongs.com/songs/willoughby-wallaby-woo.php>

### Write



Help your child make flashcards of the rhyming words in *Rhyming Dust Bunnies*. It is sometimes easier for children to sort words that rhyme when they see the ending letters are the same, such as car, jar, far, etc.



### Did You Know?



Idaho public school children in kindergarten through 3rd grade are given a short reading assessment each year in the fall and spring. This assessment is called the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI), and it allows teachers and parents to monitor and provide support to young children as they learn to read.

By March/April, kindergarten children are expected to name most capital and lowercase letters and know the sounds of several consonants and vowels.

Your child's teacher can tell you more about the end-of-year reading expectations and how to support your child at home.



### Reading Tips for Parents

- Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- Show your child how you read every day for fun and work (novels, newspapers, magazines, etc.).
- Ask open-ended questions as you read with your child, those that do not have just one answer.
- Help your child make connections to the story or information. "This story reminds me of the camping trip we took with Uncle Jon!"
- Visit the library or bookstore with your child to attend storytimes and choose books to read at home.

### 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!