



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.

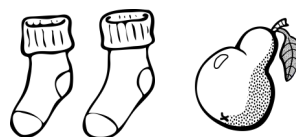
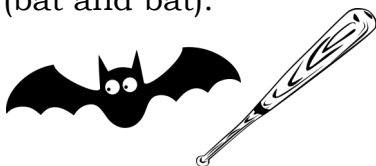
For more information about how you can help your child develop phonological awareness visit:

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 "homonyms," words that sound alike but have a different meaning. They may be spelled differently (pair and pear) or the same (bat and bat).



Read



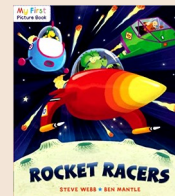
Tanka Tanka Skunk, by Steve Webb



The perfect book to help children begin breaking down words into syllables, *Tanka Tanka Skunk!*, will have your child moving and grooving to the rhythm and beat with these lively drumming animals.

Encourage your child to clap, stomp, or drum out each syllable as you read out loud. This book will quickly become a family favorite!

Other books by Steve Webb:



Choose Books



Some great books for playing with words:

Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp, by Carol Diggory Shields

Big Chickens Go to Town, by Leslie Helakoski

A Greyhound, a Groundhog, by Emily Jenkins

Dear Deer, by Gene Baretta

E-Mergency, by Tom Lichtenheld

Rhyming Dust Bunnies, by Jan Thomas

Squeak! Rumble! Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!:
a Sonic, by Wynton Marsalis

Talk

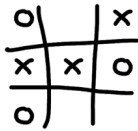


While it is important to talk with your children, it is also important to listen. Ask your child questions, and be patient while he responds. Sometimes it takes a little while for young children to figure out what they want to say and how they want to say it.

Write



Use wait times to play tic-tac-toe with your child. Let her draw out the board on napkins or scratch paper. Take turns being X and O. The straight lines in the board, the crossed lines in the X, and the round line of the O help her practice the strokes needed to form letters.



Play



Try these games with your child.

Put two words together to make a new word:

What word would we have if we put 'cow' and 'boy' together? What about 'foot' and 'ball'? 'Bed' and 'spread'?

Take words apart:

What two words do you hear in 'hotdog?' 'Moonlight?' 'Crosswalk?'

Rhyme:

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, or make up silly rhymes and songs together.

Breaking words into little sounds:

Say 'clap.' Now say it without the 'c' sound (lap). Now say it with 'n' at the beginning (nap). Now add the 's' sound at the beginning (snap). You turned a 'clap' into a 'snap!' Can you keep going?

Sing



The Farmer in the Dell

The farmer in the dell,
The farmer in the dell,
Heigh ho the derry-o,
The farmer in the dell.

The farmer takes a wife,
The farmer takes a wife,
Heigh ho the derry-o,
The farmer takes a wife.

Repeat with the following:

The wife takes the child...
The child takes the cow...
The cow takes the pig...
The pig takes the dog...
The dog takes the cat...
The cat takes the mouse...
The mouse takes the cheese...
The cheese stands alone...

Hear this song: <https://bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell.php>

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.