

Did you know...



To understand a spoken language, a child must be able to hear the different sounds and parts of the words that make up the language. Some words rhyme, some words begin with the same sound, some words end the same. Children who begin to notice these things are developing phonological awareness. Most children who have phonological awareness have an easier time learning to read.

Singing with your child and playing word games will help your child begin to break words down into little parts that they can hear.



Here's how...

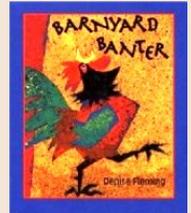


- ✦ Ask whether two words rhyme: Do 'cat' and 'hat' sound alike? Do 'cat' and 'dog' rhyme?
- ✦ Help your child find rhyming families: "Let's think of words that rhyme with 'cat': hat, bat, fat..." It's ok if they find a nonsense word that rhymes, such as 'gat.'
- ✦ Put two words together to make a new word: "What word would we have if we put 'cow' and 'boy' together?" (cowboy)
- ✦ Take words apart: "What little words do you hear in football?" (foot, ball)
- ✦ Read and re-read stories that your child enjoys. It will help them hear the sounds and rhymes of words better as he becomes familiar with them.
- ✦ Make up your own nonsense rhymes and silly songs. Children love silly words at this age. "Row, row, row your goat, gently down the stream!"
- ✦ Make animal noises while singing songs or in pretend play.

Read



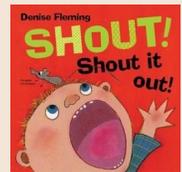
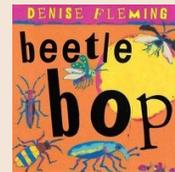
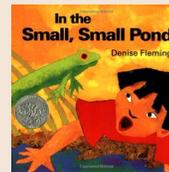
Barnyard Banter, by Denise Fleming



Farm animals and the sounds they make are a favorite with young children. Follow this group of animals around the barnyard as they look for their friend, Goose. The colorful art and repetition of sounds will keep your child engaged and interacting with the story.



Denise Fleming is the author/illustrator of 18 children's books, including *In the Small, Small Pond*, which won a Caldecott Honor Award for its artwork.



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 that have repeating words or sounds

Books that have rhythm

Talk



Leave out the last rhyming word in a nursery rhyme, poem, or song... For example: *Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you ____ (are)*. Do this with other nursery rhymes, poems, and songs that your child knows by heart.

Write



Make rhyming cards for your child to play games with by having them draw pictures of things that rhyme, cutting pictures from magazines, or printing clip art. You can use large index cards or small pieces of paper. Help your child write the word underneath the picture and use the cards to play a matching game.



Play



B-I-N-G-O

There was a farmer had a dog,
And Bingo was his name-O.

B-I-N-G-O!

B-I-N-G-O!

B-I-N-G-O!

And Bingo was his name-O!

There was a farmer had a dog,
And Bingo was his name-O.

(Clap)-I-N-G-O!

(Clap)-I-N-G-O!

(Clap)-I-N-G-O!

And Bingo was his name-O!

Continue clapping one more letter in each verse, until you are clapping for all five letters.

You can hear the tune and watch a video at
<http://bussongs.com/songs/bingo.php>

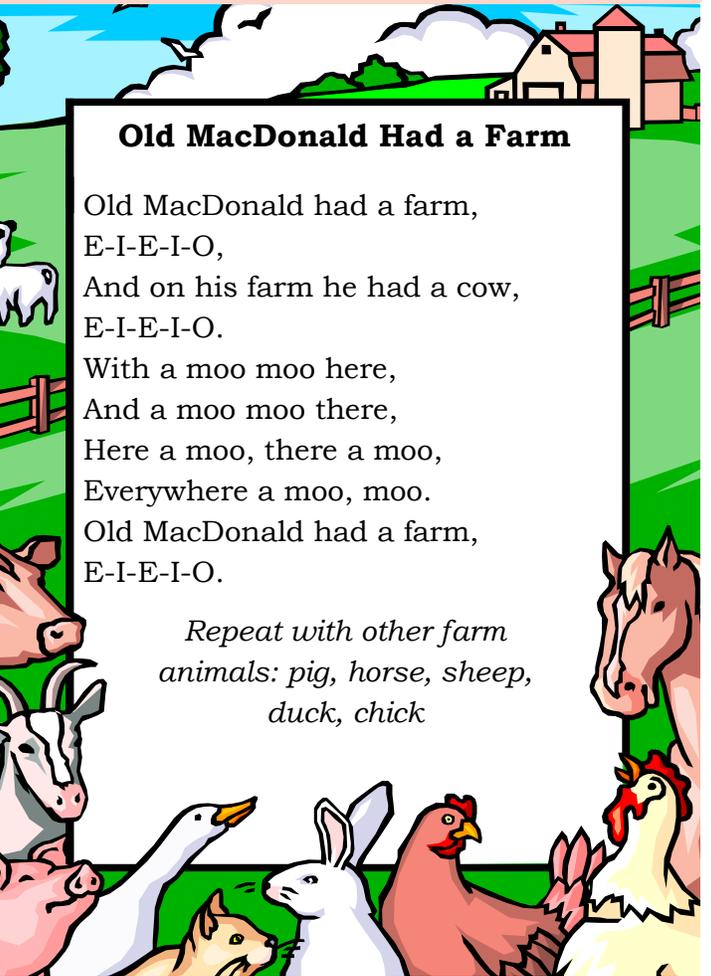
Sing



Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Old MacDonald had a farm,
E-I-E-I-O,
And on his farm he had a cow,
E-I-E-I-O.
With a moo moo here,
And a moo moo there,
Here a moo, there a moo,
Everywhere a moo, moo.
Old MacDonald had a farm,
E-I-E-I-O.

Repeat with other farm animals: pig, horse, sheep, duck, chick



At your library...



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