Play is the most age-appropriate way for young children to learn. Playing with words is a great way for your child to hear the different sounds and parts of the words that make up their language.

Help your child recognize that some words rhyme, some words begin with the same sound, and some words end the same. Children who begin to notice these things are developing phonological awareness. Most children who have a strong sense of phonological awareness have an easier time learning to read.

See www.phonologicalawareness.org for ideas.

Did you know...

Bear Wants More, by Karma Wilson

Spring is here! Bear has awakened from his hibernation and is hungry, hungry, hungry! Join him on a rhyme-filled eating adventure with his forest friends.

More Bear books by Karma Wilson:

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
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Talk

Go on a “rare word” hunt through books such as Bear Wants More. Talk about the interesting words you find together.

Sing

The Bear Went Over the Mountain

The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
The bear went over the mountain,
To see what he could see.

The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
The other side of the mountain,
Was all that he could see.

The other side of the mountain,
Was all that he could see!

To hear the tune of this song, visit:
www.kididdles.com/lyrics/b005.html

Write

Write your child a short “Morning Message” each day. You can use a dry erase or chalkboard, or just paper and pencil.

Dear Mary,
Today is Monday. It is a school day. After school we will go to Grandma’s.
Love, Mom

Have her put her finger on top of yours, then point to each word as you read it aloud. Writing some of the same words each day will help your child begin to recognize letters, sounds, and some simple words and names.

Play

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear

(Match body movements to words)

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, shut the door.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, count to four.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, reach up high.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, wink one eye.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, put away your shoes.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, that will do.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch your nose.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch your toes.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, climb in bed.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, rest your head.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn out the light.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say, “Goodnight.”

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!