

Did you know...



Play is the most age-appropriate way for young children to learn. In order for children to know letter sounds and rhyming words it is important to play with words throughout the day. Talking with and to your child is one of the most valuable things you can do to help them become a strong reader, so talk a lot and make it fun.

Being able to hear the little parts of words is called *phonological awareness*. Hearing how words begin and end, and being able to separate words into syllables, will help them “sound out” words later. Find times throughout the day that are a natural fit for talking and singing, such as riding in the car, bath time, mealtime, and getting ready for bed. Making this a part of your routine will help your child be a strong reader.

Here's how...



- ❖ Play “I Spy” games with rhyming words or beginning sounds. “I spy with my little eye something that begins with a ‘f-f-f’ sound (foot),” or “I spy something that rhymes with far (car).” Let your child find sounds or make up rhymes and have you guess, too.
- ❖ Help your child become aware of the smaller sounds that make up words by learning nursery rhymes and making up your own silly, nonsense words together.
- ❖ Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme. Emphasize the rhyming words. “Twinkle, twinkle, little **star**, How I wonder what you **are**.”

Read



One Duck Stuck: A Mucky, Ducky Counting Book, by Phyllis Root



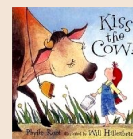
In this counting book, larger and larger groups of animals try to help a duck that is stuck in the “swampy chompy marsh.” This is a great read-aloud book because of the bright illustrations and the sound effects used in the text. Words like “clomp clomp” and “splish splash” are fun ways to play with words and build vocabulary.

Some other books by Phyllis Root:

Looking for a Moose

The House that Jill Built

Kiss the Cow



Choosing Books



Types of books that help your child play with words...

Rhyming books

Dr. Seuss books

Mother Goose or other nursery rhyme books

Books that illustrate a familiar song

Books with a rhythm or beat

Books with animal sounds

Books that have repeating words or sounds

Talk



Play *Duck, Duck, Goose* with your child. You'll need at least five people to play. Everyone sits in a circle except the Tapper. They walk around the circle tapping each person on the head, saying "Duck." They call one person the "Goose", who gets up to chase the Tapper back to their place in the circle.

This game provides an opportunity to talk about differences between ducks and geese, turn-taking, and patterning.

Write



Have your child draw pictures of imaginary animals or objects and make up silly words to call them. Dr. Seuss books can serve as a good model for your child if they have a hard time getting started. What is a Lerkim or a Wocket? Let your child draw their version of it and talk about it together.

Play



I'm a Little Duck

I'm a little duck and I go "quack, quack, quack,"

(flap wings)

And I wiggle my tail in the back, back, back.

(shake bottom)

I swim in the water and go "quack, quack,
quack,"

(paddle with hands)

And I wiggle my tail in the back, back, back.

(shake bottom)



Sing



Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out one day,

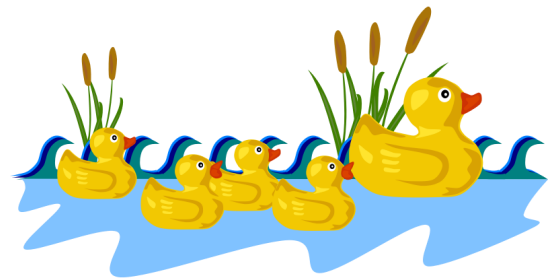
Over the hills and far away.

Papa duck called "Quack, quack, quack."

And four little ducks came swimming back.

(Repeat verse three more times, subtracting one more duck with each verse. When it gets to one duck, have Papa duck call and all five ducks come swimming back.)

To hear the tune (words are a little different) visit www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/countmein/parents_five_little_ducks.html



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!