

Did you know...



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.

Here's how...

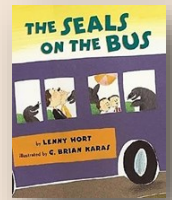


- ❖ Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme. Emphasize the rhyming words. "Twinkle, twinkle, little **star**, How I wonder what you **are**."
- ❖ Help your child find rhyming families: "Let's think of words that rhyme with *cat*: hat, bat, fat..." It's ok if they find a nonsense word that rhymes, such as 'gat.'
- ❖ 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 begins with a 'f-f-f' sound (foot)," or "I spy something that rhymes with far (car)."

Read



The Seals on the Bus, **by Lenny Hort**



Two children and their parents board a city bus on their way to a party. At the next stop, who should get on but a group of seals, who holler "ERRP, ERRP, ERRP" at the top of their lungs. Each time the bus stops, a new kind of animal gets on. But when several skunks want to come aboard, even the children cry "HELP! HELP! HELP!" This funny version of the classic children's song "The Wheels on the Bus" will have young readers "erring" and honking along.

To hear the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus" go to www.thelearninggroove.com/wheels-on-the-bus.

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

Any book!

Talk



Play “Secret Word” in the car, doctor’s office, in line at the store, etc. Think of a word, then say a word that rhymes with the secret word. “It sounds like ‘hook’. Have your child guess the word. You can give hints: “We read this each night.”

Write



Fingerplays let your children use their hands and fingers to act out a song or rhyme. This activity strengthens the little muscles needed to hold and control a pencil, and builds early literacy skills. Fingerplays are fun and can be done anywhere and anytime!

Play



Fingerplay: The Little Turtle

There was a little turtle (*make a fist*)
Who lived in a box. (*draw a square in the air*)
He swam in a puddle. (*pretend to swim*)
He climbed on the rocks. (*pretend to climb*)
He snapped at a mosquito. (*use hand make a snapping motion*)
He snapped at a flea. (*use hand to make a snapping motion*)
He snapped at a minnow. (*use hand to make a snapping motion*)
And he snapped at me! (*use hand to make a snapping motion*)
He caught the mosquito. (*clap hands*)
He caught the flea. (*clap hands*)
He caught the minnow. (*clap hands*)
But he didn’t catch me! (*wave finger “no-no”*)

See a video of this fingerplay from our friends at the Washington County Cooperative Library System: <https://tinyurl.com/wccls-littleturtle>



Sing



Barnyard Song

(to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)

If you’re a chicken and you know it say,
“cluck cluck.”

If you’re a chicken and you know it say,
“cluck cluck.”

If you’re a chicken and you know it,
then you really ought to show it.

If you’re a chicken and you know it say,
“cluck cluck.”

If you’re a cow and you know it say, “moo, moo.”

If you’re a cow and you know it say, “moo, moo.”

If you’re a cow and you know it,
then you really ought to show it.

If you’re a cow and you know it say, “moo, moo.”

Repeat with:

Pig: “oink, oink”

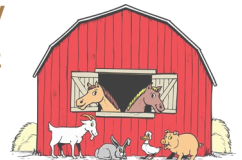
Duck: “quack, quack”

Sheep: “baa, baa”

Add your own animals and sounds!

Hear the song “If You’re Happy and You Know It”

at www.thelearninggroove.com/if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it



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.