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 “errping” and honking along.

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

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).”

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!
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.”

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!

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/wccs-littleturtle

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!

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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.