



For ages  
**3-5**

# The Bookworm



From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

**February 2011**

## Playing with Words

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. By playing with words, children develop *phonological awareness*. Most children who have phonological awareness have an easier time learning to read.

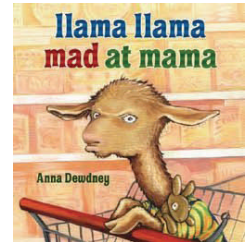
**Here's what you can do:**

- Help your pre-reader become aware of the smaller sounds that make up words by learning nursery rhymes and making up your own silly, nonsense rhymes together.
- Ask whether two words rhyme: "Do 'cat' and 'hat' sound alike?" "Do 'cat' and 'dog' rhyme?"
- Sing songs with your child every day. Songs naturally break words into syllables and are a fun way to learn about word sounds.
- Play "I Spy" with rhymes. "I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with 'far' (car)." Let your child make up rhymes and have you guess, too.
- Put two words together to make a new word: "What word would we have if we put 'cow' and 'boy' together?"
- Begin pointing out beginning sounds of words. "What sound do you hear at the beginning of 'mom'? That's right, m-m-m."
- Leave out the last rhyming word. "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.
- Say rhymes and sing songs in the language that is most comfortable for you.

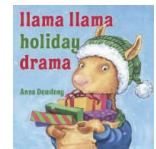
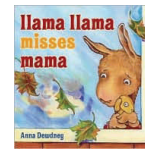
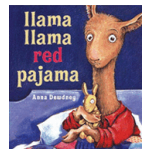
## Book of the Month

### *Llama Llama Mad at Mama*, by Anna Dewdney

Little Llama wants to play, but Saturday is shopping day. Trying on clothes, long lines, and sitting in the cart are finally too much for the little shopper, and he melts down in a llama drama. Young children and parents will see themselves in this story, and the rhyming text makes the story fun to read over and over again.



**More Llama Llama books:**



**Some good books to 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

**Some favorites...**

*Mouse Mess*, Linnea Asplind

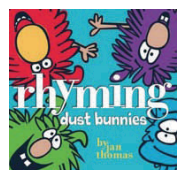
*Chicken Cheeks*, Michael Ian Black

*Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp*, Carol Diggory Shields

*The Pout Pout Fish*, Deborah Diesen

*Rhyming Dust Bunnies*, Jan Thomas

*Down by the Station*, Will Hillenbrand



## More fun with *Llama Llama Mad at Mama*

### Grocery Store Literacy for Preschoolers (from Reading Rockets, 2009)

**Word Play...** Choose a letter and make a game of finding things in the store that start with that letter. Example: for the letter "p" you could find **peanuts, popcorn, pineapple, paper** and **pizza**. Emphasize the letter "p" and the sound it makes with each of your "p" words.

**Math Connections...** Ask your child, "How many apples do we need so each person in the family gets one?" Encourage him to use his fingers to count the number of people in the family and how many apples to buy. Have him count the apples as you put them into the bag.

**Building Word Banks...** Use the items on the grocery shelf to give your child practice finding something **above** their belly button, **below** their nose, on the **bottom** shelf, and **between** other items on a shelf.

To see more ideas or read in Spanish, visit [www.colorincolorado.org/article/31497](http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/31497)



### On-line Resources

Here are some websites that can help your preschool child develop phonological awareness:

*Starfall- Lots of pre-reading activities:*  
[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

*Reading is Fundamental:- Parent "how to" videos, activities for kids, bilingual:* [www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/en/](http://www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/en/)

*Reggie the Rhyming Rhino:* <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bll/reggie/home/index.htm>

*Mother Goose Club- Rhymes, songs, videos, and activities:* [www.mothersgooseclub.com](http://www.mothersgooseclub.com)

*KIDiddles- Words and tunes to lots of favorite children's songs:* [www.kididdles.com/lyrics](http://www.kididdles.com/lyrics)

## Nursery Rhyme

Nursery rhymes are a simple and easy way to help your child build rhyming skills. Research suggests that children who know lots of nursery rhymes before they begin school tend to find more success with learning to read. You can find books of nursery rhymes at your local library.

### To Market, To Market

To market, to market, to buy a fat pig;  
Home again, home again, jiggety jig.  
To market, to market, to buy a fat hog;  
Home again, home again, jiggety jog.

To market, to market, to buy a white cake;  
Home again, home again, never was baked.  
To market, to market, to buy a plum bun;  
Home again, home again, market is done.



### What your library can do for you...

Don't have access to a computer? Most libraries do not require a library card in order to use the computers. Some even offer free computer classes.

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