



For ages
**Birth
to 2**

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 and sounds children develop **phonological awareness**. Most children who have phonological awareness have an easier time when they begin to learn to read later on.

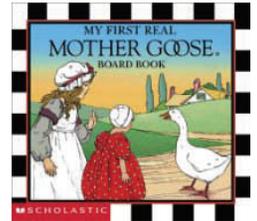
Here's what you can do:

- Sing songs with your child every day. Songs naturally break words into syllables and are a fun way to learn about word sounds. In most songs, each syllable in a word gets a different note.
- 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."
- Add actions, such as clapping, as you sing a song or say a poem. This helps your child break down language into separate words.
- Make up your own nonsense rhymes and silly songs.
- Play word games with your toddler, such as "What sounds like 'ran'?" or "What starts with the same sound as 'ball'?"
- Read and re-read stories your child enjoys.
- Catch your child's attention by repeating the sounds he likes to say. Then change the first letter to make a new silly word: *Baa-baa* becomes *la-la*.
- Talk with your child throughout the day.
- Say rhymes and sing songs in the language most comfortable for you.

Book of the Month

My First Real Mother Goose, by Blanche Fisher Wright

This sturdy board book, just the right size for little hands, contains 15 nursery rhymes your young child will love bouncing, clapping, and singing with you over and over.



Nursery Rhymes

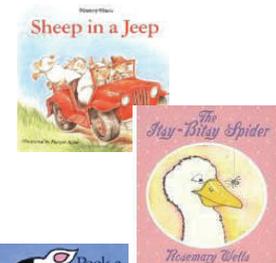
Nursery rhymes are a simple and easy way to help your child build rhyming skills. Research suggests that children who know lots of nursery rhymes before they begin school tend to find more success with learning to read. You can find more books of nursery rhymes at your local library.



Other kinds of books to help your child begin to play with words...

Rhyming books

Songs that have been turned into books

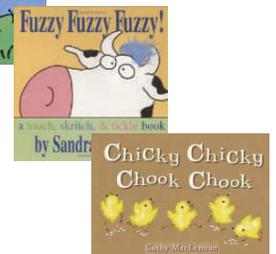


Poetry books

Books with animal sounds



Books that have repeating words or sounds



Books that have rhythm

More fun with *My First Real Mother Goose*

Rhyme Time: Choose two words from one of the nursery rhymes in the book, such as Jill and hill. Say them several times with your child and explain that these words *rhyme*, they sound alike. Help your toddler think of other real and nonsense words that rhyme with Jill and hill (pill, bill, mill, vill).

Music and movement: Put some rhythm into these rhymes! Bounce, clap, tap, stomp, drum, jump, snap... Giving each part of the word a beat will help your young child learn to break words into syllables. Try singing some of these nursery rhymes with your child as well.

Tech tip... If you have access to a computer you can find websites with more nursery rhymes, as well as tunes and activities to go along with them. Here are a few of our favorites:



Denver Public Library's podcasts of nursery rhymes and other stories:

<http://podcast.denverlibrary.org/>

Mother Goose Club- Rhymes, songs, videos, and activities: www.mothersgooseclub.com

KIDiddles- words and tunes to lots of favorite children's songs:

www.kididdles.com/lyrics

Action Rhyme for Toddlers

Ring Around the Rosies

(Walk in a circle holding hands, sit down on the last line)

Ring around the rosies,
A pocket full of posies,
Ashes, ashes,
We all fall down!



Song

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.

Canciones En Español

Brilla, Brilla, Estrellita

Brilla, brilla, estrellita,
Quiero verte cintilar.
En el cielo sobre el mar
Un diamante de verdad.
Brilla, brilla, estrellita,
Quiero verte cintilar.

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.

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Printed 2011

