For ages 3-5

The Bookworm

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

October 2011

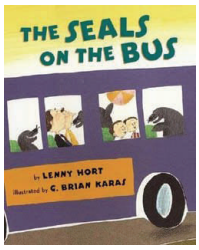
Playing with Words

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 at home:

- 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.
- For young preschoolers, play with animal sounds.
- 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.
- 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



***Seals on the Bus,* by Lenny Hort, illustrated by G. Brian Karas**

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 hissing 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.

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...

Chicken Cheeks, Michael Ian Black

Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp, Carol Diggory Shields

The Pout Pout Fish, Deborah Diesen

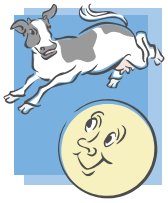
Rhyming Dust Bunnies, Jan Thomas

Down by the Station, Will Hillenbrand

More fun with *Seals on the Bus*

Rhyme time... Play "I Spy" with pictures on the pages of the book. "I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with 'wall' (ball)." Let your child make up rhymes and have you guess, too.

Music and Movement... To see the words to the original version, "Wheels on the Bus," and to hear the tune, visit **www.kididdles.com/lyrics/b014.html**.



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 books of nursery rhymes at your local library.

Song to Sing with Your Child

We're Going to the Zoo

(to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell")

We're going to the zoo,
We're going to the zoo!
Hi, ho, it's off we go,
We're going to the zoo!

We'll see some monkeys there,
We'll see some monkeys there.
Swinging, climbing in the trees,
We'll see some monkeys there.

We'll see some tigers there,
We'll see some tigers there
Roaring, pouncing, playing about,
We'll see some tigers there.

We'll see some penguins there,
We'll see some penguins there.
Waddling, diving, swimming around,
We'll see some penguins there.

Online Resources

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

Starfall- Lots of pre-reading activities: www.starfall.com

Reading is Fundamental:- Parent "how to" videos, activities for kids, bilingual: 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.mothergooseclub.com

KIDiddles- Words and tunes to lots of favorite children's songs: www.kididdles.com/lyrics

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