

Did you know...



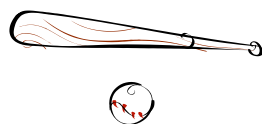
To understand a spoken language, a child must be able to hear the different sounds and parts of the words that make up the language. Some words rhyme, some words begin with the same sound, some words end the same. Children who begin to notice these things are developing phonological awareness. Most children who have phonological awareness have an easier time learning to read. It is difficult for children to “sound it out” if they cannot hear the little sounds in words.

Singing with your child and playing word games will help your child begin to break words down into little parts that they can hear.

Here's how...



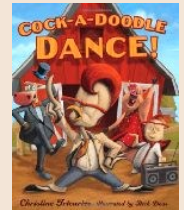
- ❖ Ask whether two words rhyme: Do ‘cat’ and ‘hat’ sound alike? Do ‘cat’ and ‘dog’ rhyme?
- ❖ Play with “compound” words, two words put together to make a new word, such as water + melon = watermelon: “What word would we have if we put ‘cow’ and ‘boy’ together?” (cowboy)
- ❖ Take compound words apart. “What little words do you hear in football?” (foot, ball)
- ❖ Point out sentences where all the words begin with the same letter– The fat frog fell on Friday.
- ❖ Make up your own nonsense rhymes and silly songs. Children love silly words at this age.
- ❖ Introduce “homophones,” words that sound alike but have a different meaning (sow and sew). They may be spelled differently or the same (bat and bat).



Read



Cock-a-Doodle Dance, by Christine Tricarico



The rooster has decided that all work and no play is no fun on the farm. Dancing is the answer to this problem, so the animals all join in for two days of boogieing– and don't do their regular work. But that leaves them tired, dirty, and without food. What can the animals do to bring back order to the farm?

This book has a lot of rhyming words and new vocabulary. What is a tango? It would be fun to watch dance videos on the internet so your child can see what the dances look like.

Choose Books



Other fun books to play with words...

Dinosaur Stomp, by Paul Stickland

Big Chickens Fly the Coop, by Helen Helakoski

Bearobics, by Vic Parker

Did You Say Pears? by Arlene Alda

Walter Was Worried, by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Rhyming Dust Bunnies, by Jan Thomas

Tanka Tanka Skunk! by Steve Webb





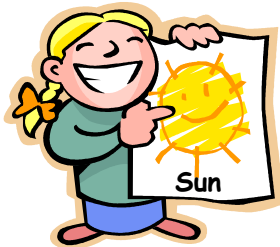
Reading Tips for Parents

- Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- Show your child how you read every day for fun and work (novels, newspapers, magazines, etc.).
- Visit the library or bookstore with your child to attend storytimes and choose books to read at home.

Write



Make rhyming cards for your child. Have them draw pictures of things that rhyme, cutting pictures from magazines, or printing clip art. You can use large index cards or small pieces of paper. Help your child write the word underneath the picture and use the cards to play a matching game.



Play



Check out these online games that reinforce playing with words...

www.getreadytoread.org/skill-building-activities/online-games

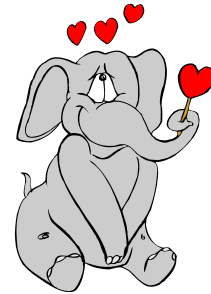
pbskids.org/wordworld/characters/game_frm.html

<http://www.sproutonline.com/games/elmo-rhymes>



Willaby Wallaby Woo

Willaby wallaby woo, an elephant sat on you,
 Willaby wallaby wee, an elephant sat on me.
 Willaby wallaby wacy, an elephant sat on Staci,
 Willaby wallaby wulie, an elephant sat on Julie.
(sing the names of people in your family or class with the rhyming word starting with “w.”)



Watch this song at <http://tinyurl.com/willaby>

At your library...



Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Or you can ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!