

## Did you know...



Play is the most age-appropriate way for young children to learn. In order for children to know letter sounds and rhyming words when they are older, it is important to play with words throughout the day.

Singing and playing with words will help your child begin to hear the smaller sounds in words. These **phonological awareness** skills are needed later on, as children learn to read.

Introduce your child to rhyming words through books, nursery rhymes, and making up nonsense words. Just have fun with words and your child's skills will keep growing.

## Here's how...

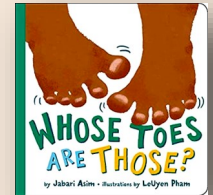


- ✦ Sing or play songs about animals while you move like them— hop like a bunny, strut like a chicken, gallop like a horse. Encourage your child to make that animal's sound as they move around.
- ✦ Use rhyming words when you give directions to your child. Example: "There's milk in your cup. Now drink it up!"
- ✦ Catch your child's attention by repeating a word they like to say. Change the first letter to make a new silly word: *Doggie becomes roggie, hoggie, soggie and so on.*
- ✦ Sing songs with your child. Traditional nursery rhymes are a great source for rhyming words and new vocabulary.

## Read

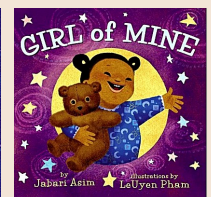
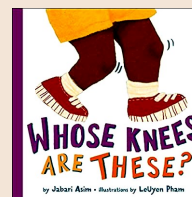


### **Whose Toes Are Those?** by Jabari Asim



This sweet version of the rhyme "This Little Piggy" is perfect to share with your baby or toddler. The bright pictures and rhyming text make this a favorite book to cuddle up and read together.

If your little one likes this book, look for Jabari Asim's other board books:



## Choosing Books



### **Types of books that help your child play with words...**

*Rhyming books*

*Dr. Seuss books*

*Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme books*

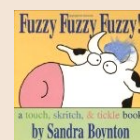
*Books that illustrate a familiar song*

*Books with a rhythm or beat*

*Books with animal noises*

*Books that have repeating words or sounds*

*Books with sounds, such as "buzz," "zoom," or "pop!"*



## Talk



The first few years of your child's life are *very, very* important for brain growth, and much of that growth depends on your child's experiences with you, other people, and the world. You can help your child develop a healthy brain by talking with, and to, them every day, starting from birth. Talk about what you're doing as you're doing it, such as getting your morning coffee or changing their diaper; sing with your child as you go about your day; tell them the names of the things they see or touch; read books and other materials to your child; and be sure to smile and make eye contact with your child often!

## Ready to write



Stacking small blocks or boxes helps with hand-eye coordination, a skill that is needed in order to learn to write later on. By the time your toddler is two, they should be able to build a tower of four or more blocks. See more **Developmental Milestones** to help keep your baby or toddler on track for success! (*Materials available in other languages as well*) [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html)

## Play



### Tickle Rhyme: Five Little Piggies

*(Gently squeeze each of your child's toes)*

This little piggy went to market,  
This little piggy stayed at home,  
This little piggy ate roast beef,  
This little piggy had none.  
And this little piggy went...

"Wee wee wee wee wee"

*(tickle your fingers up your child's leg)*

All the way home...



## Sing



### Frère Jacques

*(traditional French song)*



Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques,  
Dormez vous? Dormez vous?  
Sonnez les matines,  
Sonnez les matines,  
Din, din, don!  
Din, din, don!

*English:*

Are you sleeping?

Are you sleeping?

Brother John,

Brother John?

Morning bells are ringing.

Morning bells are ringing.

Ding! Ding! Dong!

Ding! Ding! Dong!

*Spanish:*

Martinelo,

Martinelo,

Duermas tú?

Duermas tú?

Tocan las campanas,

Tocan las campanas,

Din, Din, Don.

Din, Din, Don.

Hear the tune at:

<http://tinyurl.com/kididdles-frerejacques>

## At your library...



Most libraries have free Wi-Fi that families can use for at-home learning. During the pandemic many libraries have expanded Wi-Fi service. Some are loaning mobile hotspots, as well as laptops or devices. Call your library or check their website for more information about computers, devices and Wi-Fi.