

## 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 ...

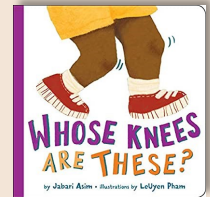


- ❖ Sing or play songs about animals while you move like them— hop like a bunny, strut like a chicken, gallop like a horse. Encourage your child to make that animal's sound as they move around.
- ❖ Use rhyming words when you give directions to your child. Example: "There's milk in your cup. Now drink 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

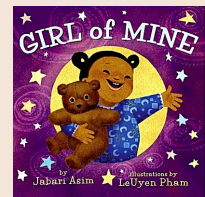
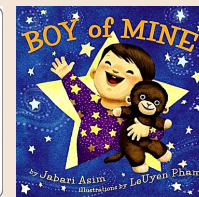
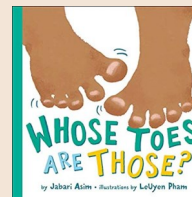


### **Whose Knees Are These?** by Jabari Asim



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

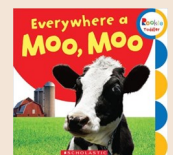
Books that illustrate a familiar song

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



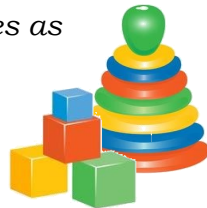
The first few years of your child's life are *very, very* important for brain growth, and much of that growth depends on your child's experiences with you, other people, and the world. You can help your child develop a healthy brain by talking with, and to, them every day, starting from birth. Talk about 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



### Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

(Touch each body part as you sing it)

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,  
knees and toes.

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,  
knees and toes,  
And eyes and ears and mouth and nose.

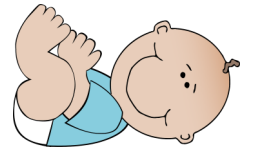
Head, shoulders, knees and toes,  
knees and toes.

(Repeat, getting faster each time)

You can find this song at

<http://tinyurl.com/wccls-knees-toes>

(Washington County Cooperative  
Library Services)



## At your library ...



In addition to books, many libraries offer toys, equipment, supplies, tools, and instruments to support hobbies and crafts, sports and recreation, art and music, baking and gardening, and home repair and maintenance. Visit your library to see what is available in your area!