

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...

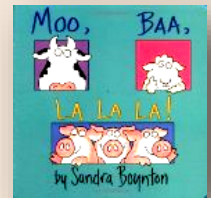


- ✦ Sing or play songs about animals while you move like them— hop like a bunny, strut like a chicken, gallop like a horse. Encourage your child to make that animal's sound as they move around.
- ✦ Use rhyming words when you give directions to your child. Example: "There's milk in your cup. Now drink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



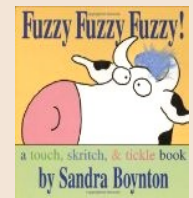
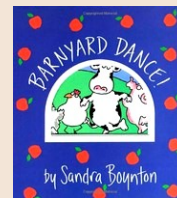
"Moo, Baa, La La La" by Sandra Boynton



This book uses silly verses to teach animal sounds.

"Three singing pigs say 'La La La!'" Young children love making animal sounds, and they will enjoy correcting the animals when they say it wrong.

Author/cartoonist Sandra Boynton has written several books for young children. If your child enjoyed "Moo, Baa, La La La," check out some of her other board books at your local library:



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

Talk



After reading the story, go back and ask your child to point to animals on a page. "Where's the cow? (help your child point with her finger or hand) There it is! What does a cow say? That's right, Moo!" You can do this activity with other animal books, too!

Ready to Write



Children need to use and strengthen the muscles in their hands to be able to draw and write well. A fun way to strengthen muscles is to fill a small tub or pan with water and sponges. Show your child how to squeeze the sponge out and fill it up with water again. If you do not have a good place at home to get messy, just use bath time for sponge play.

Play



Eight Baby Pigs

(Use your fingers to represent the pigs)

Two little pigs lived in a pen,

(hold up thumbs)

Each had four babies and that made ten.

(wiggle fingers on both hands)

These four babies were black and white,

(wiggle four fingers on one hand)

These four babies were black as night.

(wiggle four fingers on other hand)

All eight babies loved to play,

(wiggle all fingers)

And they rolled and they
rolled in the mud all day!

(roll hands)



Sing



Cows in the Barn

Tune: The Wheels on the Bus

The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo,

Moo, moo, moo; moo, moo, moo.

The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo,

All day long.

Additional verses:

The ducks in the pond go

quack, quack, quack...

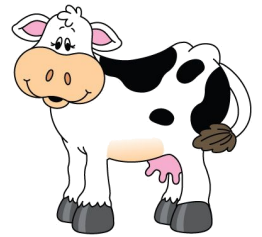
The sheep in the field go

baa, baa, baa...

The piggies in the pen go

oink, oink, oink...

[www.thelearninggroove.com/
wheels-on-the-bus](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/wheels-on-the-bus)



At your library...



Don't have access to a computer? Many libraries do not require a library card in order to use the computers. Some even offer free computer classes.