



Did you know...



Sentences are made up of words, and words can be broken down into smaller parts. For example, some words rhyme, and some words begin with the same sound. Children who begin to notice these things are developing **phonological awareness**, which means being able to hear and work with the smaller sounds in a spoken language.

When you are having fun with words through word play, like rhyming or singing, you are helping develop this important early literacy skill.

Here's how...



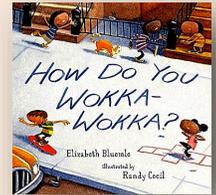
- ❖ Point out sentences where all the words begin with the same letter- The fat frog fell on Friday.
- ❖ Change the words in a nursery rhyme or song with silly or nonsense rhyming words. "Willaby wallaby woo, an elephant sat on you" becomes "Willaby, wallaby, wottle, an elephant sat on a bottle."
- ❖ Play "I Spy" games with rhyming words or beginning sounds. "I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with far (car)."
- ❖ Point out the little words that make up larger words, such as "hotdog" or "rainbow."
- ❖ Introduce "homonyms," words that sound alike but have a different meaning. They may be spelled differently (pair and pear) or the same (bat and bat).



Read



How Do You Wokka-Wokka? by Elizabeth Bluemle



Some days you wake up and you've just got to wokka! Shimmy, shake, say "hey" and do your walk-a! This book is full of silly words and rhymes that will have your child in giggles as they show you how THEY wokka-wokka... Get your dance on!

Other books by the author:



Choose Books



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

Rhyming books

Dr. Seuss books

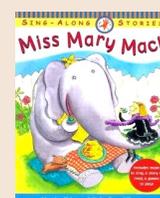
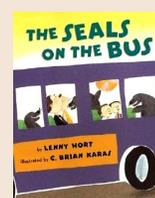
Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme books

Books that illustrate a familiar song

Books with a rhythm or beat

Books with animal noises

Books that have repeating words or sounds



Talk



Ask your child how they are feeling about school today. Help them find describing words if they have trouble. Ask them to tell you something they are excited about today.

Write



By the time your child is five, they should be able to draw a person with at least six body parts. Ask your child to draw a picture of a friend or family member dancing or doing something fun. See more 5-year milestones at www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/milestones-5yr.html

Sing



My Auntie Monica

(Match body movements to words)

I have an aunt who dances,
my Auntie Monica,
and when we go out dancing
they all say, "Ooh, la, la!"
Ooh, la, la, ooh, la, la.

She likes to move her eyes,
like this, like this, like this.
She likes to spin and spin around,
Like this, like this, like this. Oh!

Repeat with:

She likes to move her nose.
She likes to move her head.
She likes to move her shoulders.
She likes to move her hands.
She likes to move her hips.
She likes to move her feet.
She likes to move her body.

See a version of this song from the King County Library System: <https://kcls.org/content/tia-monica-the-ooo-la-la-dancing-song/>



Play



Johnny Works with One Hammer

(You can use your child's name instead of "Johnny")

Johnny works with 1 hammer, 1 hammer, 1 hammer. Johnny works with 1 hammer, now he works with 2. *(one fist moving up and down)*

Johnny works with 2 hammers, 2 hammers, 2 hammers, etc. *(two fists)* Now he works with 3.

Johnny works with 3 hammers, etc. *(two fists and one foot)* Now he works with 4.

Johnny works with 4 hammers, etc. *(two fists and two feet)* Now he works with 5.

Johnny works with 5 hammers, etc. *(two fists, two feet, and head nodding)* Now his work is done!

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.