

Did you know...



Some words rhyme, and some words begin with the same sound. Sentences are made up of words, and words can be broken down into smaller parts. 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, you are helping develop this important early literacy skill.

Here's how...



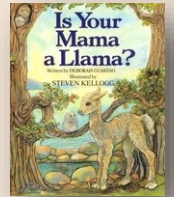
- ❖ Point out sentences where all the words begin with the same letter- The fat frog fell on Friday.
- ❖ Change the words in a nursery rhyme or song with silly or nonsense rhyming words. "Willaby wallaby woo, an elephant sat on you" becomes "Willaby, wallaby, wottle, an elephant sat on a bottle."
- ❖ 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



Is Your Mama a Llama? by Deborah Guarino



A young llama named Lloyd asks his friends if their mamas are llamas and finds out, in rhyming riddles, what kind of animal everyone's mama really is. But it's his friend Lyn that finally leads Lloyd to the answer he most longs to hear. Is your mama a llama?

Also 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

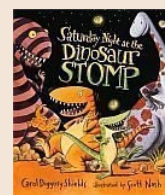
Books that illustrate a familiar song

Books with a rhythm or beat

Books with animal noises

Books that have repeating words or sounds

Any book!



Talk



While it is important to talk with your children, it is also important to listen. Ask your child questions, and be patient while he responds. Sometimes it takes a little while for young children to figure out what they want to say and how they want to say it.

Write



Help your child make cards of rhyming words. It is sometimes easier for children to sort words that rhyme when they see the ending letters are the same, such as car, jar, far, etc.



Play



Try these games with your child.

Put two words together to make a new word:

What word would we have if we put 'cow' and 'boy' together? What about 'foot' and 'ball?' 'Bed' and 'spread?'

Take words apart:

What two words do you hear in 'hotdog?' 'Moonlight?' 'Crosswalk?'

Rhyme:

Leave out the last rhyming word. 'Twinkle, twinkle little star, How I wonder what you _____, (are).' Do this with other rhymes, poems and songs that your child knows by heart, or make up silly rhymes and songs together.

Breaking words into little sounds:

Say 'clap.' Now say it without the 'c' sound (lap). Now say it with 'n' at the beginning (nap). Now add the 's' sound at the beginning (snap). You turned a 'clap' into a 'snap!' Can you keep going?

Sing



The Animal Fair

I went to the animal fair
The birds and the beasts were there,
The big baboon by the light of the moon
Was combing his auburn hair.
The monkey bumped the skunk,
And sat on the elephant's trunk;
The elephant sneezed and fell to his knees,
And that was the end of the monk!
The monk!



<https://bussongs.com/songs/i-went-to-the-animal-fair>

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.