

Did you know...



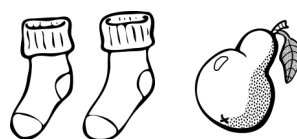
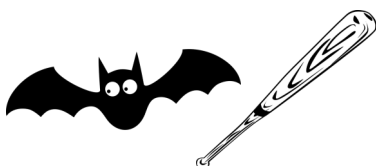
Some words rhyme, and some words begin with the same sound. Sentences are made up of words, and words can be broken down into smaller parts. Children who begin to notice these things are developing **phonological awareness**, which means being able to hear and work with the smaller sounds in a spoken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



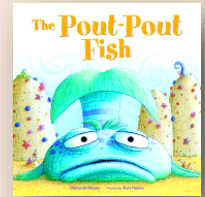
- ❖ Point out sentences where all the words begin with the same letter- The fat frog fell on Friday.
- ❖ Change the words in a nursery rhyme or song with silly or nonsense rhyming words. "Willaby wallaby woo, an elephant sat on you" becomes "Willaby, wallaby, wottle, an elephant sat on a bottle."
- ❖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

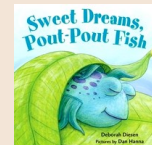
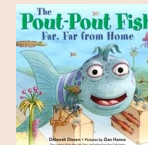
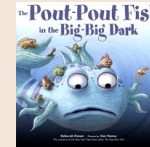
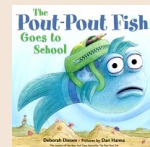


"The Pout-Pout Fish" by Deborah Diesen



Swim along with Mr. Fish as he discovers that being glum and spreading "dreary wearies" isn't really his destiny. Bright ocean colors and playful rhyme come together in this fun fish story that's sure to turn little pouts into big smiles.

Some other Pout-Pout Fish books to look for at your library:



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



Talk about how the pictures in books help tell the story. What is in the pictures that the author doesn't tell you in the story?

Write



The more your child handles pencils and crayons, the more comfortable he or she will be writing. Let your child draw the family pet or a character from a book, such as the Pout-Pout Fish. Help him or her label the picture with a name or describing words.

Sing



Have You Ever Been A-Fishin'?

Have you ever been a-fishin' on a bright sunny day? *(pretend to cast a line)*

Have you ever seen a fish swimming in an' out the bay? *(put two hands together and make your hands swim like a fish)*

With his hands in his pockets and his pockets in his pants? *(pat front pockets, then pat back pockets)*

Have you ever seen a fishy do the hootchy-kootchie dance? *(wiggle a little dance)*

(Repeat movements from above for next verse)

Well, I have been a-fishin' on a bright sunny day.

And I have seen the fish swimming in an' out the bay.

With his hands in his pockets and his pockets in his pants.

But I've never seen a fishy do the hootchy-kootchie dance!

To the tune of "Turkey in the Straw."

Hear tune: www.mamalisa.com/mp3/fish_in_the_bay.mp3

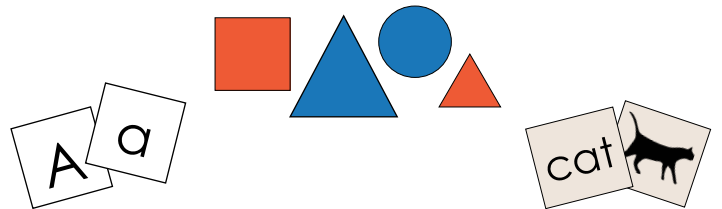


Play



Go Fishin' Matching Game

Tie a piece of string to a stick or straw, and then tie a magnet to the other end of the string. Make "fish" cards out of colored paper, magazines, old envelopes, cereal boxes, etc. Glue a paperclip to each "fish." You don't need to make fish shapes, any shape will do! Spread cards out on floor and let your child fish for matching pairs. You can make pairs for colors, letters, shapes, actual types of fish, numbers, or beginning words.



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.