

Did you know...



Play is the most age-appropriate way for young children to learn. Playing with words is a great way for your child to hear the different sounds and parts of the words that make up their language.

Help your child recognize that some words rhyme, some words begin with the same sound, some words end the same, and words can be broken down into smaller sounds or parts. Children who begin to notice these things are developing **phonological awareness**. Most children who have a strong sense of phonological awareness have an easier time learning to read.

Here's how...

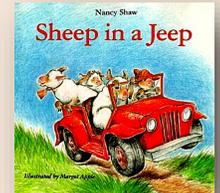


- ❖ Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme. Emphasize the rhyming words. "Twinkle, twinkle, little **star**, How I wonder what you **are**."
- ❖ Help your child find rhyming families: "Let's think of words that rhyme with *cat*: hat, bat, fat..." It's ok if they find a nonsense word that rhymes, such as 'gat.'
- ❖ 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 begins with a 'f-f-f' sound (foot)," or "I spy something that rhymes with far (car)."
- ❖ Sing songs with your child every day. Songs break words down into small parts and often rhyme. See page 2 for a fun song to sing this month.

Read

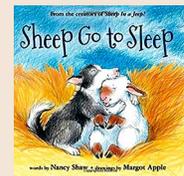
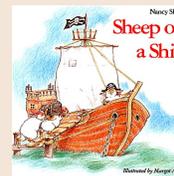
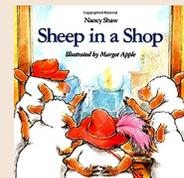
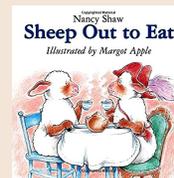


Sheep in a Jeep, by Nancy Shaw



When silly sheep get behind the wheel, look out! Children can practice rhyming skills with this simple fun text, but it's the pictures that really tell the story. Margot Apple's colored pencil art is full of details that are great to point out and talk about with your child.

Look for more sheep adventures 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 that have repeating words or sounds

Any book!

Talk



Go on a “rare word” hunt through books such as *Sheep in a Jeep*. Talk about the interesting words you find together, such as steep, gooey, grunt...

Write



When your child is three they should be able to copy a circle with a pencil or crayon. Make a picture with your child and see whether they can copy your circle or make one on their own. By the time your child is four, they should be able to draw a person with two to four body parts. Ask your child to draw a picture of a friend or family member and observe the body parts they include.

See more milestones for your preschooler at www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/milestones-5yr.html

Materials are also available in Spanish and other languages.

Play



Action Rhyme: Little Bo Peep

Do this with a scarf, handkerchief, or small toy.

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep
(hide scarf behind back, in pocket, under leg, etc.)

And doesn't know where to find them.

Leave them alone,

and they'll come home (bring out scarf)

Wagging their tails behind them (wave scarf).

After the rhyme: Teach your child location words, or “prepositions,” by asking your child where the scarf was hidden. “Where was the sheep?” *Behind* my back; *in* my pocket; *under* my leg; *on* my head. Use these kinds of words throughout the day.



Sing



Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Old MacDonald had a farm,
E-I-E-I-O,
And on his farm he had a cow,
E-I-E-I-O.

With a moo moo here,
And a moo moo there,
Here a moo, there a moo,
Everywhere a moo, moo.
Old MacDonald had a farm,
E-I-E-I-O.

Repeat with other farm
animals: pig, horse, sheep,
duck, chick



Hear this song at

www.thelearninggroove.com/old-macdonald

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.