



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 ...

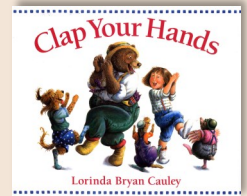


- ❖ Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme. Emphasize the rhyming words. "Twinkle, twinkle, little **star**, How I wonder what you **are**."
- ❖ Help your child find rhyming families: "Let's think of words that rhyme with *cat*: hat, bat, fat..." It's okay if they find a nonsense 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



Clap Your Hands by Lorinda Bryan Cauley



Little ones will jump at the chance to join this parade of silly animals and children as they stomp, wiggle, roar, and spin their way through the day, and the text helps children learn to recognize rhyming words.

Choosing Books



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

Rhyming books

Dr. Seuss books

Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme books

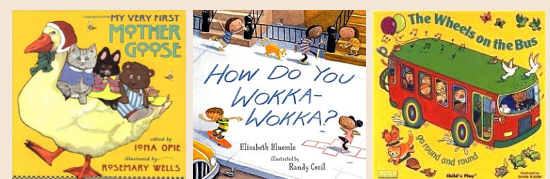
Books that illustrate a familiar song

Books with a rhythm or beat

Books with animal noises

Books that have repeating words or sounds

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





Talk and play with your preschooler every day. As they are playing with dolls, action figures, stuffed animals, etc., take some time to join in the play. Create back and forth conversations between the “characters,” then pull your child’s character into the conversation.

Character 1: “I’m hungry. I want some cake!”

Character 2: “Oh, no, we don’t have any cake. We’ll have to make some. What do we need to make a cake?”

Child’s character: “Eggs!”

Character 1: “And flour, and butter. What else?”

Child’s character: “Chocolate!”



Write



Help your child make pairs of rhyming cards. Use index cards or small squares of paper. Choose two words that rhyme, such as “dog” and “frog.” Your child can draw their own pictures, they can look for pictures to cut out of old magazines, or you can find and print clip art from the internet. Use the cards to play matching games.



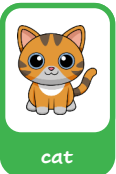
dog



frog



bat



cat

Play



Act It Out

At this age, your preschooler should be able to listen and follow simple directions. If you have a copy of *Clap Your Hands*, read it out loud and act out the directions with your child (clap your hands, stomp your feet, shake your arms ...).

If you don’t have a copy, you can play simple games such as “Simon Says” with your child. If you don’t know how to play this game, see this fun video: <https://youtu.be/Y1Koq--vOEE>



This Old Man

This old man, he played **one**,
He played knick knack with his thumb,
With a knick, knack, paddy whack,
Give the dog a bone;
This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played **two**,
He played knick knack on my shoe,
With a knick, knack, paddy whack,
Give the dog a bone,
This old man came rolling home.

Continue singing with these verses:

Three, on his knee

Four, on the door

Five, on my hive

Six, with his sticks

Seven, up to heaven

Eight, on my gate

Nine, on my spine

Ten, all over again

See a version of this song at

<http://tinyurl.com/RIF-oldman>

At your library ...



In addition to books, many libraries offer toys, equipment, supplies, tools, and instruments to support hobbies and crafts, sports and recreation, art and music, baking and gardening, and home repair and maintenance. Visit your library to see what is available in your area!