

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...

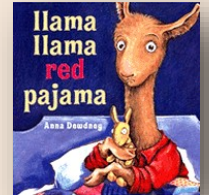


- ❖ Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme. Emphasize the rhyming words. "Twinkle, twinkle, little **star**, How I wonder what you **are**."
- ❖ Help your child find rhyming families: "Let's think of words that rhyme with *cat*: hat, bat, fat..." It's ok if they find a nonsense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



"Llama Llama Red Pajama" by Anna Dewdney



Llama, Llama red pajama is waiting, waiting for his mama. Mama isn't coming yet, and Baby Llama starts to fret. In this favorite rhyming read-aloud, Baby Llama turns bedtime into an all-out llama drama!

More Llama Llama books:



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

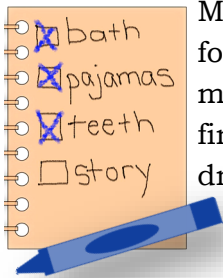
Any book!

Talk



Cover to Cover: Before you open a book and start reading, talk about the cover with your child. Point to the title and read it aloud. Point to the author. If you've read other books by that author, remind your child what they were. Ask your child what the story might be about, and what clues in the title or picture he or she used to make those predictions. You're not trying to see if your child is "right"; you're just trying to build excitement for the story and showing that the cover tells us quite a lot about the book.

Write



Make a checklist of bedtime tasks for your child, then let him or her mark an "X" in the box as they finish each one. You can include a drawing next to the word if you like.

Play



Play with the words in songs:

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat

Gently down the stream.

Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,

Life is but a dream.

Now make up new words to the song:

Row, row, row your car...

Or make up silly words:

Tow, tow, tow my goat...

Or use nonsense words:

Bow, bow, bow my doat...



Sing



Ten in the Bed

There were 10 in the bed, and the little one said,
"Roll over, roll over."

So they all rolled over, and one fell out...

There were 9 in the bed, and the little one said,
"Roll over, roll over."

So they all rolled over, and one fell out...

Repeat down to 1.

There was 1 in the bed and the little one said,
"Good night!"

(Put ten objects on the table or on the top of a small box. Each time one "falls out" let your child roll an object off the table or box. Ask her or him to count how many are left.)



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.