

Rhyming

Why Rhyming Is Important

- It is fun. Playing with rhyme is learning, but because it is just that -- playing -- children are willing to spend a lot of time rhyming and learning more about rhyme.
- Rhymes help children with phonemic awareness, which is the knowledge that phonemes are the smallest units of sounds that make up words.
- Rhyme teaches children about the patterns and structures of both spoken and written language.
- Songs and rhymes expose your child to the rhythm of the language.
- Rhyme also prepares children to make predictions while learning words and gives them crucial decoding skills.

Rhyming and Completion

- Using a rhyming book – or book of nursery rhymes, have the child guess the rhyming words.
For example: Humpty Dumpty sat on the WALL, Humpty Dumpty had a great ____.
- For fun and to encourage more complex understanding of rhymes, make up new words and have your child complete the rhyme. For example: Humpty Dumpty sat on a STOOL, Humpty Dumpty started to ____ (DROOL!). Or Humpty Dumpty sat on a CHAIR, Humpty Dumpty didn't have any ____ (HAIR!).
- Play similar games with rhyming books. Guess the rhyme, make up new rhymes. It's great to be silly and have fun with it.

Toddler Rhyming Activities

- Row Row Row Your Boat (with child rowing on your lap). Change the words. Be silly.
- Eensy Weensy Spider
- Any nursery rhyme that you can act out with your child (e.g. I'm A Little Teapot, Pat-A-Cake).