



Family Literacy at the Library

Rhymes Help Children Learn to Read

Reading nursery rhymes is a great way for parents to bond with their young children. It also helps children develop important pre-reading skills, called phonological awareness—the knowledge that sentences are made up of words, and that words are made up of syllables and individual sounds. Research has shown that these skills are necessary for learning to read.

Books of Rhymes

Barker Lottridge, Celia
The Moon is Round & Other Rhymes to Play with Your Baby. 1992.

Brown, Marc
Hand Rhymes. 1985.

Chorao, Kay
Knock at the Door and Other Baby Action Rhymes. 1999.

Cobb, Jane
I'm a Little Teapot. 1996.

Cole, Joanna
The Eensy Weensy Spider: Fingerplays & Action Rhymes. 1991.

Emerson, Sally & Corbett, Pie
Action Rhymes. 1993.

Fitch, Sheree
Toes In My Nose. 1991.

Foster, John & Thompson, Carol
First Verses: Finger Rhymes, Action Rhymes, Chanting Rhymes, Counting Rhymes. 1997.

Geeson, Andrew
Mother Goose Picture Rhymes. 1994.

Hayes, Sarah
Stamp Your Feet Action Rhymes. 1988.

Hibner, Dixie & Cromwell, Liz
Finger Frolics: Fingerplays for Young Children. 1983.

Lee, Dennis
Jelly Belly. 1983.

Newcome, Zita
Head, Shoulders, Knees, & Toes and Other Action Rhymes. 2002.

Roberts, Lynda
Mitt Magic: Fingerplays for Finger Puppets. 1985.

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Rhymes Help Children Learn to Read (cont.)

Some Ideas to Try:

- Emphasize the rhyming words so that children will pay more attention to them during nursery rhymes.
- Singing nursery rhymes helps highlight syllables, because often each one gets a different note.
- Using actions with nursery rhymes helps children realize that sentences are made up of individual words.
- Make up your own silly rhymes together.
- With older toddlers, try words games, such as: “What starts with the same sound as dog?” or “What sounds like cat?” These help children focus on beginning sounds and ending rhyming patterns of words.

With 4 & 5 year olds, try some of these word games:

- ★ Ask if two words rhyme: “do ‘ball’ and ‘hat’ rhyme? – “Do ‘tap’ and ‘lap’ rhyme?”
- ★ Put two small words together to make a bigger word- “What word would you have if you put ‘bed’ and ‘room together?”
- ★ Take a syllable away– “What word would you have if you took the ‘foot’ away from ‘football’?”
- ★ Take a sound away– “What word would you have if you took the ‘mmmm’ away from ‘meat’?”

Rhyme Recordings

Jaeger, Sally

From Wobbleton to Wobbleton. 1998.

Mr. Bear Says Hello. 2000.

MacKenzie, Kevin

Fingersplay: Fingerplays and Action Rhymes for Children. 2002.

Raffi

Singable Songs for the Very Young. 1996.

Sharon, Lois and Bram

Mainly Mother Goose. 1984.

Name Games. 2004.

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Families Reading and Learning

