

Helping Your Child Learn to Rhyme (A Pre-Reading Skill)

Sing songs that rhyme with your child

- Emphasize the words that rhyme (e.g., “Twinkle, twinkle, little STAR, how I wonder what you ARE.”)

Choose pairs of rhyming items or toys (e.g., bear/pear, cat/hat, dog/frog, sock/clock)

- Put one item from each pair into a bag.
- Spread the remaining items on the floor.
- Take turns picking the items out of the bag and finding the object that rhymes with it (e.g. if you pick a bear from the bag, look over the other objects and find the pear).

Look at rhyming books with your child (e.g., Dr. Seuss)

- Emphasize the words that rhyme and talk about them with your child (e.g., “CAT, HAT - they sound the same don’t they? They rhyme.”)

When reading books or playing with toys, talk about the pictures or the toys and get your child to think of a word that rhymes with it (e.g., “Look, a cat. Mat sounds like cat. What else sounds like cat?”).

During everyday activities, point out words that rhyme (e.g., “You’re sitting on a chair. Bear rhymes with chair. Chair-bear.”)

Reference: “Home Program – Rhyming” – North York General Hospital, Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services, February 2004.