

Rhyming

How to Help Your Child Learn About Rhyming

Words rhyme when they end with the same sound. For example, *cat* rhymes with *hat* because they both end with the "at" sound. *Cat* also rhymes with *rat*, *pat*, and *sat*. The word *run* rhymes with *fun*, *sun*, *bun*, and *nun* because they all end with the "un" sound.

Rhyming is important because children need to be able to hear the separate sounds that make up words before they try to read or write them. Rhyming helps children pay attention to how words sound.

Rhyming Games to Play with Children

There are many fun rhyming games you can play with your child. Here are just a few ideas:

Rhyme Hunt

Think of a one syllable word; for example, "*cat*." Ask your child, "what rhymes with *cat*?" See if your child can think of a word that rhymes. Words that rhyme with *cat* are *rat*, *pat*, and *sat*. If your child does not get the idea of rhyming at first, say "Cat ends with the "at" sound. Do you hear the "at" sound?" You then could say "how about "rat"? Does it end with the "at" sound? How about "pat" or "sat?" Practice with other words and see if your child can think of a word that rhymes with them.

Sample word list:

dog-log	tree-bee
can-pan	pot-hot
wall-call	book-cook
bug-rug	play-day
try-fly	lamp-stamp



Kindergarten and 1st Grade

Nursery Rhymes

Read or tell your child a nursery rhyme. Have him tell you which words rhyme. For example, say:

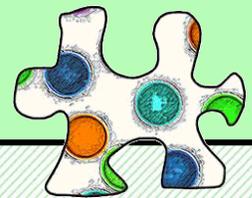
Hickory, dickory, dock.
The mouse ran up the clock.



Ask, "Which words rhyme?" See if he knows that hickory and dickory rhyme and dock rhymes with clock. You also can use songs, simple poems, or even jingles that have words that rhyme. We have included a sheet with several popular nursery rhymes for you to use.

Rhyming Puzzle Pictures

Have your child cut apart the pictures on the included sheets. You may need to help. Ask her to match pictures of things that rhyme. For example, ask, "Can you find the picture of something that rhymes with cake?" Child finds the picture of the snake and says, "snake." If she needs help matching the rhyming pictures, have her match the puzzle pieces first.



Try these more advanced games once your child seems to understand rhyming.

What Does Not Belong?

Tell your child three words. Two of the words should rhyme, but the third word should not rhyme. Ask him which word does not belong (does not rhyme).

Example:

Parent says, "rat, men, hat." Child answers, "men."

This is a little more difficult for children and you may have to help at first. Talk about how each word ends. For example, you could say, "Rat ends with 'at', men ends with 'en', and hat ends with 'at.' Which words end the same?"

Sample word list:

hit-sit-sun

hill-mop-top

dog-moon-spoon

hen-Tom-pen

lamp-stamp-boat

man-can-bell

nose-bee-toes



What Am I Riddles

Make up simple riddles for your child to solve by figuring out a word that matches the clues. For example, you say, "I am an animal. I swim in water, I rhyme with dish. What am I?" Child answers, "fish." You may need to give more clues. Use simple words that the child knows.

Other riddles might be:

I am bright. I shine in the sky during the day.
I rhyme with run. What am I? (sun)

I shine at night when the sky is dark. I rhyme
with spoon. What am I? (moon)

You put me on when it is cold outside. I rhyme
with boat. What am I? (coat)

I grow tall with leaves on my branches. I rhyme
with key. What am I? (tree)

I go on your head to keep off the sun. I rhyme
with bat. What am I? (hat)

I float on water and sail around a lake. I rhyme
with goat. What am I? (boat)

Make up other riddles for your child. As she gets
better at this game, you can have her make up a
riddle for you.



Watch Families Doing Activities

To watch families doing these activities, please go to: www.schoolsuccesslibrary.com and click on the "Parents" link at the top of the page. Next, click on "Literacy Resources". Then, click on the button that matches your child's age group. Scroll down the page and click on the video that goes with this tip sheet. Other tip sheets and videos are there as well.

More Ideas

If you and your child enjoy these activities, tell your child's teacher. The teacher may have more ideas to share for learning fun at home. If your child is having a hard time with these activities, you also can talk to your child's teacher. There may be other activities to help.



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